

THE TIMES

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Mr Healey paves way for Budget deficit blow

Conference 'sabotage' warning

Community mandate for the conference. In fact, there had been no such problem as well as the conference ever being held. Dr FitzGerald claimed that the change in the British position was a serious threat to the future of the EEC itself. "People are disturbed because Britain had indicated its desire, once renegotiation was over, to operate within the Community framework in the same way as other members. I think we are all concerned by an action which seems to run out of this."

Outlining in detail the alleged threats to the effectiveness of the Paris conference caused by the British demand, he cited the fact that the conference would be caused among other industrialized countries if one of the five seats as yet unallocated to them was demanded by Britain, and the difficulty of the EEC attending at all, if its members could not agree among themselves about representation.

Dr FitzGerald expressed the strong feelings of the Irish Government about the British stand to Dr Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, when he visited Washington last week. He hinted yesterday that the Americans would soon be making their own arrangements known to the British Government.

"It would be really tragic if this kind of development could prevent the conference going ahead, and Dr Kissinger was as

Mr Healey paves way for Budget deficit blow

Mr Healey's traditional annual speech to the House of Commons in London last night was chiefly aimed, it seemed, at paving the way for the Budget. The Minister of Finance, Mr Healey, said that the Government's policy was to maintain a balanced budget, but that it was necessary to make a small deficit in order to finance the new social services. He said that the Government was committed to a policy of "sound finance" and that it would not allow the budget to get out of control.

Greek junta 'paid man £30,000 to confess to British girl's murder'

Father asks Athens minister to order retrial

By Clive Borrell
The father of a young woman who was murdered in Greece four years ago now believes that the man serving a life sentence for her murder is innocent.

Mr Edward Chapman, aged 62, a civil engineer, lives in Athens and last night he wrote to the Minister of Justice to press for a retrial.

"I now have evidence which points to the fact that the man convicted of my daughter's murder was completely innocent, but he agreed to take a £30,000 bribe from the Greek colonels to make a false confession," Mr Chapman told me yesterday before he left his home in Putney, London.

The murder of Ann Chapman, aged 24, a freelance reporter with Radio London, seemed in October, 1971, to be a tragic but simple case of an attractive English girl who became the victim of a sexual maniac while on holiday.

Now the circumstances of her death have taken on sinister overtones which indicate that Miss Chapman may have been killed by junta police who suspected her of spying.

This theory is supported by Mr Ronald Gray, a London-based investigator employed by a United States Government-backed intelligence organization since 1968, has been working with Greek political activists passing through London.

I agree with Mr Chapman that Ann was not killed by the junta but sentenced to life imprisonment for her murder," Mr Gray said.

"It is much more likely that she died during interrogation and that her death



Ann Chapman: Her father turned detective.

Speculation stirred on Brezhnev future

By Richard Day
Mounting speculation about the political future of Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, has been stimulated by the curious idea in his talks with President Giscard d'Estaing. The secretive Russians have only themselves to blame for the speculation, but a few points are reasonably clear.

Mr Brezhnev has been unwell for some time. He has something wrong with his jaw and his speech tends to be slurred. He is not able to work as hard as he used to. Sometimes he shows signs of wanting to step down but like most elderly leaders he sometimes seems equally anxious to stay in office.

Speculation on this point is based on the fact that the state of his health and estimates of how much he can achieve before the crucial party congress which begins on February 24. At this stage it would probably be worth putting a modest bet on his achieving the first voluntary, honourable and orderly change of leadership in the Soviet Union by resigning at or before the congress.

There are two main problems. One is that there is no obvious successor. This could prolong Mr Brezhnev's stay in office or bring into being a provisionally collective leadership. The other is that his timetable has not worked out as well as he wanted.

He is assumed to have wanted the last months of his political career crowned by a new arms agreement with the Americans, a triumphal security conference at Helsinki, a conference of world communist parties, and a successful conclusion to the present five-year plan. Helsinki has proved considerably more troublesome than expected.

Any sign that Mr Brezhnev's physical or political strength is failing is liable to produce a period of uncertainty.

Whether all this has had any effect on the talks with President Giscard d'Estaing remains to be seen, but it is possible that uncertainty about Mr Brezhnev's health has rendered Moscow's decision-making machinery less able to cope with minor aggravations, such as disagreements over the meaning of détente, some friction over technical agreements, and general disappointment with France.

There always been critics of détente in the Soviet hierarchy, and in a power struggle they would tend to use this issue to further their ambitions.

Perhaps the reason nobody is talking to Mr Giscard d'Estaing is that nobody is sure what to say to him.

Paris reaction, page 5

Dilemma of European socialists

Michael Hornsby
The European Parliament today carried a motion, condemning the recent agreement by Britain of its own to seek industrial extension the forthcoming conference of oil and producers of oil.

The motion was tabled by Mr Kirk, leader of the Labour group, with the support of the Gaullist and the Flannan Fair Labour led by Mr Michael.

It was able to derive comfort from the fact that much more strongly Christian Democratic liberal resolution, which Britain of violating the treaty, was withdrawn at the last moment before a vote.

Parliament rejected a motion, supported by West German Social

Government postpones dock takeover plan

By Michael Hatfield
Political Staff
The Government has postponed its plans to legislate for the public ownership of the ports in the next session because of the pressure on the parliamentary timetable.

While Labour backbenchers were preparing last night to protest that Mr Wilson has the agreement of the House of Commons, the Government has agreed that the priority for the ports should be the extension of the dock-labour scheme and the creation of a statutory dock labour board. That has been promised for the next session.

The Government's programme of priorities on the ports is set out in a letter Mr Wilson has sent to the ports group of Labour backbenchers, which met last night.

The Minister said: "The Government have a very heavy programme of priority legislation for the coming session, including proposals to extend the coverage of statutory dock workers. This means that progress on a number of measures to which the Government is committed must be delayed."

The fact that the Government has delayed public ownership of the ports makes even more visible the dramatic confrontation at the Labour Party conference between Mr Jones and Mr Ian Mikardo, left-wing member of the party's national executive committee, who accused the unions of getting little in return for its acceptance of a £6-a-week limit on wage in-

Mr Wilson to set up inquiry on NHS

By Our Political Editor
In the midst of a crisis in the National Health Service, Mr Wilson and the Cabinet yesterday decided to set up a royal commission to reconcile the interests of patients, doctors, and staff.

Mr Wilson will make the formal announcement of the commission's terms of reference will be to consider the interests both of the patients and of those who work in the National Health Service, the best use and management of the financial and manpower resources of the NHS.

In Whitehall it was emphasized that consultations will continue on all the proposals in the Government's document about the separation of private practice from National Health Service hospitals, and that the Government's election manifesto commitment to phase out economic use of manpower, equipment and other resources.

The Government's proposals on the ports, apparently, have yet to be completed, but it is clear from the consultative document that it has abandoned the transfer of ownership of all ports and port business to a national ports authority.

One of the principal objectives of those working on the public ownership proposals is to avoid the upheaval of present management and the unnecessary expense of taking over bodies already in public ownership. It is felt that the government scheme, by which a national ports authority would be given strong powers of central direction, overcomes those obstacles.

New book by Solzhenitsyn

Paris, Oct 16.—A new work by the exiled Soviet author, Alexander Solzhenitsyn, called *Levin in Zurich*, went on sale here today. The author's publishers said.

The 240-page book deals with the life of Lenin while in exile in Switzerland during the First World War. The Russian language version was published in Moscow.

Mr Solzhenitsyn himself lives in exile in Switzerland.—Reuter.

p jumble sale bowl sold £9,000 at Sotheby's

Op silver-gilt bowl that fetched £9,000.

Pauline Norman
Room Correspondent
A French silver-gilt bowl at a jumble sale brought a price of £9,000 yesterday.

The seller was Mr C. W. man, a civil servant with Ministry of Defence. His father, a moth-eaten Edwardian cape, an army jacket and a pair of rugby boots; on a she added the little bowl and paid £800. The bowl, at All Saints, Fooks, was a gift of the Girl Guides, which the Aldermans's mother is a member.

She showed the bowl to a for friend, who thought it be worth "a couple of red" and suggested taking Sotheby's.

She recognized the bowl which is 4 1/2 inches in diameter, as a rare French piece of the reign of Louis XIV. Claude Payne of Paris dated 1686. The shallow bowl is applied with matted thus leaves and it has open scroll handles.

Other sale room news, page 14

Tighter rein on Crown Agents

Mr Reg Prendergast, Minister for Overseas Development, yesterday announced in the Commons the Government's plans for tightening ministerial control over the future activities of the Crown Agents, which provide financial and other services for overseas governments. The Agents have had to make provisions against possible future losses amounting to £134m.

Unions agree to power station closures

A closure programme affecting 48 power stations during the next 18 months was agreed yesterday by the industry's unions and management. The stations have nearly 6 per cent of the industry's generating capacity and employ nearly 5,000 men.

Mental health plans

New services for better care of the mentally ill were set out yesterday in a White Paper, but Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, said progress would be slow.

Bread price cut 1p

The first general price cut on bread for more than three years was announced yesterday by Associated British Foods, which produces more than one-fifth of all British loaves.

Apology to readers

We again apologize to all readers, advertisers, and others who were frustrated in their attempts to telephone Times Newspapers Limited yesterday, when the switchboard was closed by unofficial industrial action by Natsopa clerical staff.

Rockefeller warning on New York crisis

Vice-President Rockefeller has made a strongly worded call for assistance to New York City. In a newspaper interview yesterday he warned that there would be "catastrophic" results for the American economy if New York defaulted on its bonds.

Watergate conclusion

The Watergate special prosecutors considered bringing charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice against Mr Nixon while he was still President, according to the first Watergate report which went out last night in Washington yesterday.

King to lead march

King Hassan of Morocco announced in a broadcast that he would lead 350,000 Moroccan civilians in a march into the Spanish Sahara.

Electoral reform: Mr Wilson to consult party leaders about reconvening the Speaker's Conference

Mr Wilson is to consult party leaders about reconvening the Speaker's Conference.

Swinton sale: The contents of one of England's greatest political houses are up for sale

Stockholm: Three American cancer researchers, one of them working in London, awarded the Nobel Prize for medicine.

Bahrain: The island state's traditional role as communications centre of the Gulf is examined in an 8-page Special Report

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Record price for colt

The British Bloodstock Agency paid 200,000 guineas for a colt by MHI Reef at the Newmarket Yearling Sales yesterday. The previous British record price was broken by 66,000 guineas Page 8

Leader page 13

Letters: On Arab investment in Britain from Mr Anthony Nelson, MP; on Christian origins from the Reverend Professor C. F. D. Moule and the Reverend Paul Symonds.

Leading articles: The Lords and press freedom; EEC and the energy conference; The Australian Government

Features, pages 10 and 12
Bernard Levin on much needed reforms in the homosexual laws; Keeso Modiano looks at the prospects for Turkish moves towards a Cyprus settlement; Caroline Moorehead interviewed novelist, Joseph Heller

Obituary, page 14

Mr Graham Percin
Arts, page 11
David Robinson and Penelope Houston on new film in London; William Mann on *Orlando* in Glasgow; John Percival on *Romeo and Juliet* (Covent Garden)

Sport, pages 8 and 9

Tennis: John Lloyd eliminated from Spanish Championships; Golf: Britain and Ireland stand up well to American club professionals; Racing: Newmarket prospects and report

Stock market: Both gilts and equities were firmer in anticipation of Mr Healey's speech at the Bankers' Dinner. The FT index gained 6.0 to 348.4

Financial Editor: Incapable's higher bid for Anglo-Thai; the Crown Agents are still counting the cost; raising profits to pay pensions

Business features: A do-it-yourself communications network as a way of cutting company costs is described by Kenneth Owen; Alan Hutchinson on southern Africa's new railway

Business Diary: The absurdity of there not being any women as full-time chairmen of industrial tribunals

Fly the flag non-stop to more of the Gulf.

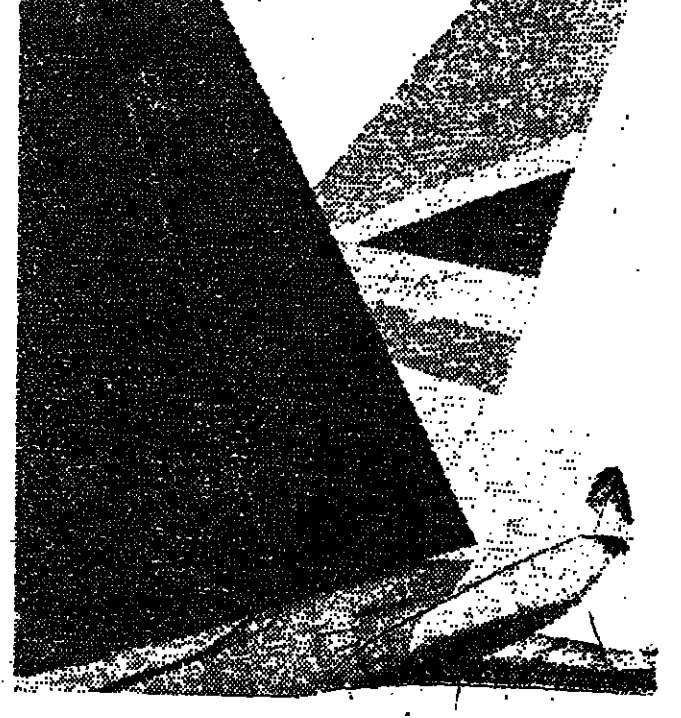
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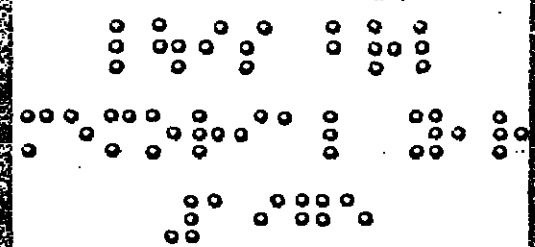
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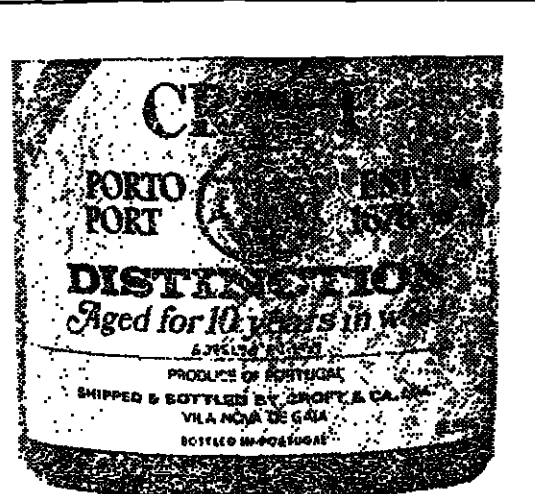
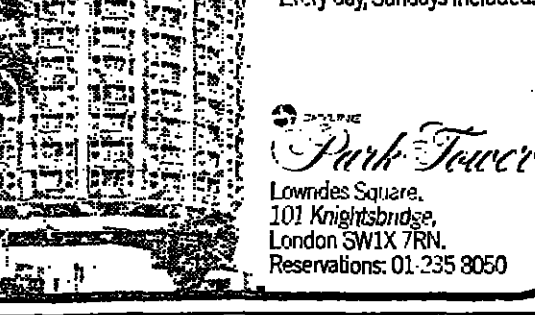
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HOME NEWS

Long-term target set for better care of the mentally ill

By John Roper
Medical Reporter

New services for the care of the mentally ill are set out in a White Paper published yesterday. But in a foreword Mrs Castle, Secretary of State for Social Services, makes it plain that because of the economic situation progress will be slow for some years.

The White Paper, she says, is a long-term strategic document indicating general direction. It must not be regarded as setting out a specific programme but as a statement of objectives against which shorter-term decisions may be taken.

The long-awaited document, entitled *Better Services for the Mentally Ill*, proposes a system of care based on the availability of modern curative drugs.

The broad aim is to encourage and aid the trend already begun towards much more community-based care, with more expert help to close gaps in the service. The old mental hospital system will be replaced with a more flexible system based on health dis-

tricts. Greater use is to be made of outpatient treatment, on day and residential services provided by local authority social service departments and on resources between health and personal social services shifted.

The pace at which community-based services could be introduced depended on resources and the pace of response of the community. There was much scope for the greater public understanding of the nature of mental illness, in particular for people to appreciate the extent to which modern methods of treatment could control it.

The White Paper reports "very considerable progress" towards community-based services. Most mental hospitals were serving a population as tending for beyond the hospital walls. Outpatient attendances numbered 1,500,000 a year, and day patients attendances two million. Psychiatric nurses were working more and more with patients and their families in their own homes. But the resources outside the hospitals were slight.

Adequate supporting services

for the mentally ill in the community were not generally available and that would pose a problem to which there was no easy answer, for many years.

In some areas the present mental hospitals will have a role to play for at least twenty years and where necessary they would be improved. The new district-based services should be provided mainly by psychiatric units in general hospitals.

Many patients would stay in hospital for only a few weeks. In 1971 of the 104,638 occupied beds in mental hospitals 75,293 were taken by patients who had been there more than a year; and of those 39 per cent had been in hospital for more than 20 years. A recent study of "new" long-term patients suggested that only a third needed constant care in hospital, and the rest, except for small numbers in special groups, required sheltered accommodation in the community.

The White Paper draws attention to the need to support the families who care for a relative who is mentally ill and the part

that departments linked with the social services should play. Housing authorities should give special consideration to people whose mental health is affected by their living conditions.

The department is looking at the conditions of disturbed children and adolescents, and plans to issue a consultation paper next year. Services should be organised to meet the special needs of adolescents. At present there were only half the estimated hospital places needed, and few hostel and day places.

Drug misuse among young people and alcoholism were growing. There were probably two thousand narcotic addicts and the trend, although not steep, was upwards. The misuse must be seen as part of the wider problems of society's over-reliance on drink, cigarettes, sleeping pills and tranquilizers.

Of mental health staff, the White Paper says that more psychiatrists will be needed and it is intended to increase the number of consultant posts as far as resources permit. The

aim was to bring the number of psychiatrists to at least a minimum of one at each of the 100 mental hospitals in the country in September, 1974, that level had not been reached in 22 hospitals.

In nursing the picture was better; only five hospitals were under the minimum level. But the proportion of qualified to unqualified nurses (35:65) was too low. A provisional aim was to have 60 per cent of the nursing staff qualified and within that a proportion of registered or enrolled nurses of the order of two to one.

The White Paper says the Government is well aware that the pattern of services set out was a far cry from what exists today. The goal must be wide but it was right to have a reasonably clear picture of the kind of service being aimed at, even if it had to be accepted that progress in the next few years may be slow and that in some parts of the country particularly it would be many years before the pattern of service could be realized.

Better Services for the Mentally Ill. (Command 5233, Stationery Office, £1.35).

Greater help sought for one-parent families

By Pat Healy
Social Services Correspondent

Some children are being taken into care because society will not provide the money and support that one-parent families need, Mrs Helene Hayman, Labour MP for Walsley and Hatfield, said yesterday.

"Children in one-parent families are much more likely to go into care than any other children", she said. "The cost of care is astronomical and any child is cheaper. It is the cruellest thing we can do to a child who has already lost one parent."

Mrs Hayman was speaking at a press conference in London called by the Finer Joint Action Committee to draw attention to the Government debate on the Finer Committee's report on *One-Parent Families on Monday*. She urged the Government to use the opportunity to announce a commitment to the principle of an allowance for one-parent families, as recommended by the Finer committee, and to promise a White Paper.

The Government is likely to say on Monday that in the present economic climate it cannot introduce a new benefit, Mrs Hayman said. But big savings could be made through not expecting separated and divorced women to take their husbands to court for maintenance, which bore heavily on the legal aid service and left the women financially no better off. Great savings could also be made by giving one-parent families the housing, day-care facilities and other services they needed.

Mrs Margaret Brannan, chairman of the action committee, said that extending family allowances to the first child in one-parent families next year would mean a net increase for most of them of only 62p a week.

A new by-pass for Lincoln, costing £13.5m, is recommended in a report published yesterday. It would connect the A46, south of the city, with the A158 to the north.

Mr Gerald Affle, Lincolnshire County Council surveyor, said: "This is a total commitment to try to solve a problem that has been dogging Lincoln for years."

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The Countryside Commission is seeking government approval to bring into force its designation of the Isles of Scilly as an area of outstanding beauty.

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William Tyndale school may be remodelled

By Tim Devlin
Education Correspondent

William Tyndale junior school in Islington, London, is likely to be remodelled after an inquiry into the way it is run at the end of this month. Miss Brenda Hart, headmistress of the infants' school, will probably be asked to become headmistress of a combined junior and infants' school.

Mr Terry Ellis, headmaster of the junior school, and the six members of his staff who have been on strike returned to work yesterday. Mr Vivian Pape, the Inner London Education Authority's inspector of primary schools, began a formal inspection. He will be joined by other inspectors today and next week.

The results of the inspection will be made available for the authority's inquiry, which starts on October 27. But the results of a preliminary inspection, undertaken during the teachers' absence, has shocked several of the authority's officials. It is rare for inspectors' report to be so depressing.

The report referred to children aged nine or 10 who were unable to use a ruler or spell simple words. It compared the junior school very unfavourably with the infants' school.

Mr Roy Price, the authority's divisional officer for Islington, said no decision to dismiss any teachers would be taken until after the inquiry. Parents who did not want to send their children to William Tyndale could send them to other schools in the neighbourhood, where there were at least 30 vacant places.

Between 40 and 50 children fewer than half the school roll, entered the school for lessons. The parents of 30 others kept them away when they heard that the striking teachers had returned.

'Mercy needed' in case of woman who killed son
Mrs Denise Harris, aged 23, who strangled her son, aged three, and dumped his body in a dustbin, was placed on probation for three years and ordered to undergo psychiatric treatment when she appeared at Bristol Crown Court yesterday.

Mrs Harris, of Foresey Close, Covington, Swindon, Wiltshire, admitted the manslaughter of her son, Sean.

Passing sentence, Mr Justice Maist told her: "The circumstances of the case were quite exceptional and it is one where mercy and understanding are needed."

Mr Ian Kennedy, QC, for the prosecution, said that according to witnesses Mr Elliott, a Conservative councillor, was drunk and staggering around in a rambling mood.

But the sheriff told the court that he had drunk only four pints and a pint of beer in a day of civic functions and a

Sheriff accused of assault in dispute over Rolls-Royce

private visit to a social club with his wife.

Mr Elliott said: "The only intention I had was to protect my wife from Mrs Woodward", who, he alleged, spat in his face and punched his wife.

When he and his wife arrived in the Rolls-Royce at their home in Nuthall Road, Nottingham, "I heard someone say words to the effect that this was all on the rates and I was living out of the rates, and associated statements like that."

Mr Carnall, of Aynsburys Circus, Nottingham, said: "I was walking along and the next thing I knew I was on my back in the middle of the road. When I tried to get up, this man, whom I did not know at the time, knocked me down again."

The hearing continues today.

Post Office chief rules out 5p Christmas mail
Sir William Ryland, chairman of the Post Office, yesterday ended the idea of a 5p Christmas stamp. He said it would cost about £5m, a sum the Post Office was not in a position to spend.

It was unfortunate that the stamp could not be introduced, but on any calculation the reduction would not bring about the required increase in total Christmas mail, about 400 million extra items.

Sir William, speaking in Bath to the area's advisory groups, said the Post Office was required by statute to make a profit.

There is no point, no future in trying to economize by keeping services, by keeping prices down, by keeping the number of people you want and then trying to keep those people by underpaying them."

Fresh or frozen, pheasants are back in the shops
Pheasant shooting has begun and the end is nigh for many of the birds that can be seen strutting along the verges and across the roads of rural England.

Traders at Smithfield Market, in London, quote from £1.35 and £1.50 in sales to shops. Pheasants will become cheaper as the season advances. Prices in the Food Hall at Harrods were cut yesterday by 15p to £2.65 for cock birds and £2.35 for hens. Comparable prices at Selfridges were £2.50 and £2.20. John Bailey of Mayfair was charging the same as Harrods.

The supermarket pheasant is deep-frozen and labelled with a warning about lead shot for those who think that the birds are bred to have their necks wrung. The Waitrose group is selling them in Kent, Oxfordshire and the suburbs of London.

They were all shot last year and had been hung for only three or four days, but carry no mark to indicate that they were not shot in the present season. The company said it was mere coincidence that one supplier had frozen pheasants just as the new vintage was being sold elsewhere. The failure of one supplier to sell 1974 pheasants during the summer this year, a new supplier had only recently been found.

The best grouse are about £2 each, while those described as "casseroles" may be less than £1.50. Wild ducks between £1.50 and £1.80. John Bailey quotes £2.40 for a grouse partridge, the variety indigenous to Britain, and £1.50 for the red-legged type introduced 200 years ago.

Plucked woodpigeons cost about

Man partly eaten by his five Alsatians

Police Constable Geoffrey Baker, who called at the house in Church Lane, Harrow Weald, Middlesex, on September 11, to investigate complaints of cruelty and neglect to five Alsatian dogs, found them sitting beside the partly-eaten body of their owner, Mr John Arthur Southern, aged 70, an inmate at Hornsey, London, was told yesterday.

The constable said he had previously visited Mr Southern on August 30 after neighbours had complained about the dogs' noise. Mr Southern was then drunk, the room was shared with the dogs in a "filthy, squalid condition", and there was only a small packet of sausages in the house.

After that visit the police made contact with the social services department and the RSPCA.

Dr Arnold Mendoza, deputy coroner, adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed and ordered a dissection relating to the social services department and the RSPCA to be produced in court.

'Son looked as though he had been beaten up'
George David Montgomery, aged 68, a retired hospital porter, giving evidence in his son's action against two police officers for alleged assault and false imprisonment, added: "From what my lad said, it had been the third degree."

Mr George Montgomery, of Lambourn, Berkshire, claims damages against Inspector Thomas Mather and Det Inspector Raymond Connor, of Merseyside Police. The officers, who were members of Lancashire Constabulary at the time of the alleged assault at St Helens police station in October, 1971, deny the allegations.

The hearing continues today.

Gypsies jailed for seven years
Three gypsies who raped a woman after dragging her naked from her lover's car on to a golf course were jailed at St Albans Crown Court, Hertfordshire, yesterday.

Thomas Davies, aged 41, John Smith, aged 22, and his brother, Stephen, aged 21, were all jailed for seven years. All three are scrap dealers who came from the former RAF camp at Bovington, Hertfordshire.

Food prices
Hugh Clayton

45p each, and shot hares vary from about 70p each in country markets to £2 or more skinned and cut. For those with the time and stamina to prepare it, a hare bought with the skin on offers some of the cheapest meat available. Rabbits trapped on farmland are sold at 50p to 60p each by butchers and fishmongers in some country towns. There are also plucked guinea fow sold at about £1.70 each or 70p a pound. As autumn advances, there are better supplies of vegetables to complement game, including young parsnips, which have dropped from recent high prices to about 12p a pound. Leeks are still dear at a minimum of 14p a pound, but spinach is fairly low at 10p a pound. There are also better supplies of turnips and swedes at about 6p a pound. Watercress is steady at about 3p a bunch, but celery has risen slightly to 12p to 15p a head. Most green vegetables remain rather expensive, especially cauliflowers. There is plenty of good home-grown fruit, including even now a few late strawberries to make up for the paucity of the summer crop. English Cox's apples are at their best and are far better than any other variety now sold. They cost between 10p and 22p a pound, depending on size and quality.

Man partly eaten by his five Alsatians

Police Constable Geoffrey Baker, who called at the house in Church Lane, Harrow Weald, Middlesex, on September 11, to investigate complaints of cruelty and neglect to five Alsatian dogs, found them sitting beside the partly-eaten body of their owner, Mr John Arthur Southern, aged 70, an inmate at Hornsey, London, was told yesterday.

The constable said he had previously visited Mr Southern on August 30 after neighbours had complained about the dogs' noise. Mr Southern was then drunk, the room was shared with the dogs in a "filthy, squalid condition", and there was only a small packet of sausages in the house.

After that visit the police made contact with the social services department and the RSPCA.

Dr Arnold Mendoza, deputy coroner, adjourned the inquest to a date to be fixed and ordered a dissection relating to the social services department and the RSPCA to be produced in court.

'Son looked as though he had been beaten up'
George David Montgomery, aged 68, a retired hospital porter, giving evidence in his son's action against two police officers for alleged assault and false imprisonment, added: "From what my lad said, it had been the third degree."

Mr George Montgomery, of Lambourn, Berkshire, claims damages against Inspector Thomas Mather and Det Inspector Raymond Connor, of Merseyside Police. The officers, who were members of Lancashire Constabulary at the time of the alleged assault at St Helens police station in October, 1971, deny the allegations.

The hearing continues today.

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The best grouse are about £2 each, while those described as "casseroles" may be less than £1.50. Wild ducks between £1.50 and £1.80. John Bailey quotes £2.40 for a grouse partridge, the variety indigenous to Britain, and £1.50 for the red-legged type introduced 200 years ago.

Plucked woodpigeons cost about

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HOME NEWS

Speaker's conference
to discuss electoral
reform and expenses

Our Political Staff

The Prime Minister is about to consult party leaders about convening the Speaker's conference, and he will raise the question of electoral reform.

Mr Jenkins, Home Secretary, announced the decision in the Commons yesterday, and added that the conference would also consider election expenditure.

With bitterness, Mr David El, Liberal MP for Rugeley, Selkirk and Peebles, intimated that since both the Government and opposition had declared themselves against any change in the electoral system but went on to call a Speaker's conference, this was not somewhat hypocritical? He asked if it would be better to spare the Speaker's time and await the findings of the Hansard Society inquiry, which was already at work on the subject.

Mr Jenkins replied that Mr El, the Liberal leader, had said that when he met the Prime Minister. But it would be odd at a time when there was more interest in electoral reform if the Speaker's

conference were not to consider it.

When a Labour backbencher gave a warning against any change to multi-member constituencies, Mr Jenkins remarked that the single-member constituency was a most important feature of British electoral arrangements, and "undoubtedly a system which splits the relationship between the MP and his constituency would be substantially different from that which exists at present."

Mr Richard Wainwright, Liberal MP for Colne Valley, speaking to the Oxford Union of Liberal Students last night, said that the move from single-member to multi-member constituencies as a consequence of electoral reform "would itself be a positive gain."

Multi-member constituencies would give electors a choice when they raised their personal problems, and far more people would feel they were genuinely represented in Parliament.

Those fighting for electoral reform, he said, should look forward to the end of the single-member constituency.

Stonehouse aide tells
of visit to Miami

Michael Horsnell

Philip Gay, personal assistant to Mr John Stonehouse, who yesterday at Horseferry Road Magistrates' Court, Westminster, of his visit to Miami days after Mr Stonehouse, for Wales, North, disappeared, and how he found in missing man's briefcase a letter that puzzled him.

The briefcase was handed to the police and in the letter, Mr Gay said, he discovered evidence that Mr Stonehouse had agreed with the Corporation a consultancy appointment which involved the use of \$25,000, half of which would be paid by the American space company on appointment. Mr Stonehouse had previously told him the fee would be in the order of \$5,000, he added.

Living evidence on the fourth of committal proceedings against Mr Stonehouse and Mrs Ella Buckley, Mr Stonehouse's former secretary, Mr Gay added that there was a record in the files of Mr Stonehouse's company, Export Promotions and Insurance Services (EPACS), the deal.

Mr Stonehouse faces 21 charges of forgery, theft and conspiracy involving more than £6,000 and two further charges alleging that he lied about his assets in applying for a passport. Mrs Buckley faces charges of theft and one of conspiracy. The alleged "ret Corporation" deal forms substance of one of the charges.

Mr Gay, who became company secretary of EPACS in August, 1974, and was also a director of several companies in the Stonehouse group, said: "He sight of this letter was first knowledge that the amount was for \$25,000. I was told that the first half of fee had been paid by ret Corporation."

Earlier, Mr Gay said that he recorded as present at two directors' meetings, in August

and October, 1974, which he did not actually attend. At the second of these, seven weeks before Mr Stonehouse's disappearance, it was resolved that £10,000 overdraft facilities at Lloyd's Bank should be arranged. He said that an arrangement that he as company secretary was "not aware of."

A meeting of directors of EPACS recorded on the company's minute book for November 4 did not take place, he added.

Mr Geoffrey Robertson, counsel for Mr Stonehouse, told Mr Kenneth Harington, the magistrate, at the beginning of yesterday's hearing that he estimated the committal proceedings would continue for a month.

Mr Alan Le Fort, who resigned from the Stonehouse group because of concern over Mr Stonehouse's loan account with EPACS, told the court of six cheques or bankers' drafts totalling £15,811 which were posted to the account, all signed by him or Mrs Buckley.

Asked about a banker's draft for \$12,500 from the Garrett Corporation, he said he was never told that commission had been received.

Under cross-examination by Mr Robertson, Mr Le Fort spoke about a Stonehouse deal involving Rothmanian cement from which the MP was hoping to make £500,000 for Global Imex, another of his companies. But that deal fell through shortly before Mr Stonehouse disappeared.

Mr Le Fort added that Mr Stonehouse drew no salary from EPACS during 1970 and 1971, only £1,000 in 1972 and £2,000 the following year.

Re-examined by Mr David Tudor Price, for the prosecution, Mr Le Fort said that in the financial year ended March, 1974, Mr Stonehouse's loan account with another of his companies, Interior Decorations and Designs, was £25,945.77p in deficit.

Complaint about cartoon
in police force upheld

A complaint that a cartoon in the Daily Mail suggested that the Newcastle police were implicated in a burglary has been upheld by the Press Council.

J. M. Pearson, of Lillanue, Walsend, complained a cartoon in the Daily Mail suggested the good name of the castle upon Tyne police out just cause. The cartoon depicted a group of policemen committing a burglary. A man was climbing through an open window, saying: "Ello, what's going on then?" A burgling policeman had a sack labelled "Newcastle Swag".

Pearson said the cartoon implied that the Newcastle police were involved in a burglary. He said that several officers admitted offences of burglary at Felling. Those named had no direct connection with the police force (castle) whose name appeared on the sack Felling lies miles from Newcastle. Mr Pearson was a member of the former Newcastle City Council, which had become part of the Northumberland County Council.

John Golding, managing

editor of the Daily Mail, told Mr Pearson that not a great number of readers would have heard of Felling, whereas Newcastle was a household name. It was felt that the Felling was virtually a suburb of Newcastle and a little licence could be used, particularly as it concerned a light-hearted cartoon. However, he appreciated Mr Pearson's concern.

Mr Golding told the Press Council that the cartoonist, Mac, had assumed that Felling was part of the Newcastle area.

The Press Council's adjudication, issued today, was: "The cartoon was calculated to suggest that the Newcastle police were involved in a burglary. That individual police officers—as individuals in any other large organisation—may commit criminal offences is a matter of grave public concern and interest. This does not, however, justify an even less charitable inference that a whole police force is guilty of criminal conduct. In this case the cartoon may have been thought by some to implicate the Newcastle police force in the offences committed by individual constables in the neighbouring town of Felling. This was not intended but it is unfortunate and to this extent the complaint against the Daily Mail is upheld."

Farmers reject
50-a-week
go demand

Farmers' leaders yesterday rejected a claim by farmworkers that a rise of £9.50 a week would bring the minimum wage to £40 a week, said that, apart from the minimum £6 limit, the demand could not be met because of a state of the farming industry.

The matter will now be considered by the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales, which comprises representatives of both sides of the industry and independent members. Its decision is expected on November 17.

Reginald Bottini, general secretary of the National Union of Agricultural and Allied Workers, said: "The farmers' demand was purely traditional. It is a same sort of reply we had for 50 years."

Liberal support
for school
voucher trial

By Our Education Correspondent

The Liberal Party yesterday declared its support for an experiment with education vouchers to give parents more choice in the schools their children attend. Mr Clement Freud, the party's education spokesman, said: "We are very much in favour of an experiment."

A Conservative Party committee is looking at the system under which parents would be given money equivalent to the cost of their child's education and allowed to spend it on the school of their choice.

More than a thousand people are expected to attend a meeting tonight at Ashford, Kent, which the county authority has mentioned as a possible place for a pilot scheme. The meeting is being organized by the Friends of the Education Voucher Experiment.

New Bible
is set out
in order of
writing

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

A new edition of the Bible which gives the Genesis story of the creation of the world on its 254th page and starts the New Testament with a text from Galatians was published yesterday. It is the first known attempt to present the books and chapters of the Bible in the chronological order in which they were written, or of the periods to which they refer.

Called *The Bible in Order*, the book is based on the text of the Jerusalem Bible and produced by the same publishers, Darton, Longman and Todd. According to Mr Joseph Rhymer, its editor, the new arrangements will meet a long-felt need of teachers.

In its new form the Bible is an unfolding account of the history and experience of the Jewish race and of the early Christians. It sets out poetic and historical passages such as the Psalms against the prose descriptions of historical events of the same period. It begins with the earliest known piece of scriptural writing, the story of Abraham. The beginning of the book of Genesis occurs in the period attributed to Saul, David, and Solomon.

The New Testament begins with fragments, taken from the Jerusalem Bible and produced by the same publishers, Darton, Longman and Todd; £15.

Lord and Lady Swinton bid melancholy goodbye to half a century of drama

Props of a great political house to be dispersed

From Philip Howard
Masham, Yorkshire

The furnishings and pictures of one of the last great political country houses are up for sale by Christie's, at Masham, North Yorkshire, on Monday and Tuesday. Swinton House, manor with crimson Virginia creeper, the castellated and many-bedroomed country house of the late Earl of Swinton in the North Riding, was for more than half a century like one of those great mansions in the political novels of Disraeli or Trollope, taken out of Victorian fiction and made into twentieth-century fact.

Here statesmen made and unmade Cabinets over their port in the old dining room, and shared the latest Westminster gossip in the drawing room beneath the magisterial eye of a portrait of the first Duke of Wellington before going out to shoot grouse on Masham Moor.

All furniture, books, and other accessories of the last of the political house parties are up for sale. The public are being admitted to view the spoils for the rest of this week.

So now dealers and amateur bargain hunters keep the rooms where Bonar Law, Baldwin, and Churchill gloried and drank deep; and where Supremacy, with the loving attention to detail of an old character actor, carefully cultivated his grouse

poor and vintage port image. For the past 27 years the house has been used as the Conservatives' main educational centre, and it will continue to be so used for 20 weekend courses a year when it is leased in January to Lindley Lodge, a charity for training of young people in industry. Accordingly the house and its furnishings are impregnated and haunted with the ghosts of the turbulent politics of this century.

The vast Meissen dinner services are obsolete witnesses

Dealers crowd the
rooms where Bonar
Law, Baldwin and
Churchill held sway

of grand political dinners in the summer recess. The Duke of Omnium himself might have coveted the enormous Landseer, depicting with bloody political symbolism a swannery invaded by sea eagles.

The library was started by William Danby, who transformed the house at the beginning of the nineteenth century, Gothicizing it, and, indeed, fortifying it, against potential attack by an army of Visigoths. The books reflect his wide interests, from topography to literature.

The later volumes show the political and literary interests of the late Lord Swinton. They include, of course, many books by Churchill, whom Swinton, with typical political intuition, befriended and used in the 1930s when Swinton was organizing the rearmament of the RAF and Churchill was in

the wilderness. The exquisite furniture was appropriate stage scenery for the political dramas that were played around it. Many worried statesmen found solace from their dispatch boxes in the grand ensemble of marquetry and ormolu, porcelain and silver and mahogany.

The quantity and beauty of the possessions are overwhelming; enough silver, china and glass to feed a regiment five courses; hundreds of drawings and paintings for the main bedrooms; hundreds of framed prints for the kitchen wing; enough books to keep a man reading for the next century. Lord and Lady Swinton were present in the background yesterday to say a melancholy goodbye to the furniture that they can no longer afford to keep in the style to which it was accustomed.

Self-help was one of the most important things for community development. A government circular last year, cutting down on finance for the whole range of social services, had included a phrase saying that encouragement should be given to voluntary activity in these spheres.

"After years of being told that Big Brother can look after us, can look after this country, Big Brother is saying 'you are the country', he said. 'Unless you show you can do it, the bureaucracies are not going to help.'"

Large councils want more money for transport

By Christopher Warman
Local Government Correspondent

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities, representing the main conurbations, is asking the Government for more money for finance local transport services.

The plea comes in the light of evidence that increased fares, made necessary by reduced government grant, have led to a loss of passengers and a drop in revenue.

Sir Robert Thomas, chairman of the AMA, said at the association's meeting in London

yesterday that the reduction in government grant from £123m this year to £91m next year, added to the fact that a higher proportion of the grant was to go to the non-metropolitan counties next year, meant that the big cities faced a cut of 47 per cent in the grant.

"We recognize that not sufficient support has been given to the shire counties, and that increases in the grant should go to them," he said. "But this should be made additional to the grant. It is clearly impossible to increase last year's grant, but we think the metropolitan counties

should receive more than is at present envisaged."

Sir Ronald Ironmonger, leader of South Yorkshire Metropolitan County Council, said the Government's policy to reduce support for local transport services would lead to higher fares and passenger resistance. That was causing tremendous difficulties for local authorities, and one authority in Yorkshire had had to double fares.

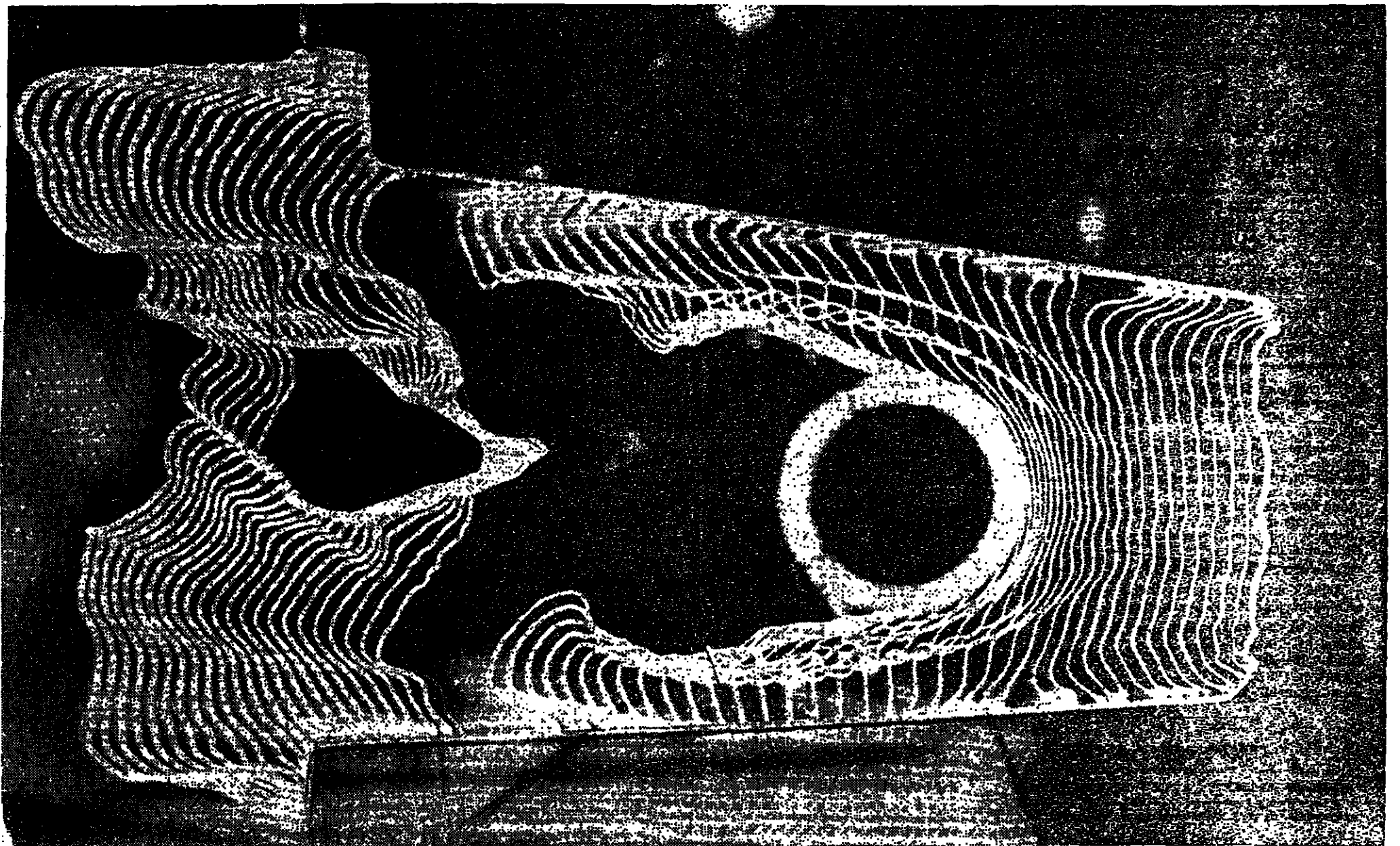
"Going downhill": The belief that "bigger is better" had brought Britain to the bottom of her national competence, Mr Leslie Ginsburg, a town plan-

ning expert, said at a conference of the National Association of Local Councils in London.

Britain had gone steadily downhill because of that concept, bringing with it huge bureaucracies and "superlord ministers", he said. It was destroying our personal initiative. Speaking to 1,300 members of local, parish, town and community councils in England and Wales, he said: "It is essential to get out of the slough of the past 25 years. We have got to work a damn sight harder in the local communities to get the bureaucracies to get things done. If the bureaucracies will

not do it we shall have to do it ourselves."

Self-help was one of the most important things for community development. A government circular last year, cutting down on finance for the whole range of social services, had included a phrase saying that encouragement should be given to voluntary activity in these spheres.

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OVERSEAS

Charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice against Mr Nixon were considered by Watergate lawyers

From Fred Emery Washington, Oct 16

The Watergate special prosecutors seriously considered bringing formal criminal charges of conspiracy to obstruct justice against Mr Nixon while he was still President, as well as in the weeks between his resignation and President Ford's pardon.

The prosecutors suspected as early as mid-1973, and believed by January, 1974 (after listening to the first few tapes Mr Nixon was forced to surrender) that they possessed the *prima facie* evidence to warrant a criminal indictment. The first formal disclosure of it is given in the final report of the Watergate Special Prosecution Force, which went on sale today as an official document.

Hitherto, the formal allegations against Mr Nixon comprised his being named as an "undisclosed co-conspirator" by the Watergate grand jury; the articles of impeachment recommended to the House of Representatives by its Judiciary Committee; and Mr Ford's pardon proclamation which forgave "offences" which he, Richard Nixon, has committed or may have committed.

The constitutional crisis, already had enough in the spring of 1974, would have been intense with an indictment. But Mr Leon Jaworski, then special prosecutor, chose to give impeachment precedence.

The report discloses that he found the Constitution "ambivalent" on the issue of prosecuting Presidents in office, and he reckoned that the Supreme Court would not uphold an indictment. His subtlety was to give immense momentum to the orderly process of removing Mr Nixon. He had Mr Nixon named "undisclosed co-conspirator", and then had the court—not just himself—pass on the grand jury's evidence to the House impeachment proceedings.

Simultaneously his suit through the courts to compel Mr Nixon to produce more tapes directly precipitated the President's resignation.

The prosecutor's original dilemma leads to the report's controversial recommendation that a constitutional amendment should now "clarify" whether a sitting President can be indicted and, if so, for what.

Also recommended is that no presidential campaign manager or campaign official should be appointed Attorney General or to any high position in the Justice Department.

There are no bombshells in the report. But there are new insights. The progress of Mr Ford's thinking about pardoning Mr Nixon becomes a little clearer in the report.

After Mr Ford's answers at his press conference on August 28 last year about deferring pardon "until any legal process has been undertaken against Mr Nixon," it had been generally assumed that this was green light for Mr Jaworski to try Mr Nixon, but that Mr Ford would pardon him before sentencing. His sudden pardon on September 8 was all the more perplexing.

Now the report reveals that Mr Jaworski, shortly after the press conference, went to see Mr Ford's White House legal counsel and said—the report quotes Mr Jaworski talking afterwards to his staff—"that the President's statements at the press conference had put the special prosecutor in a 'peculiar position' since the President's comments suggested that any action taken by WSPF against former President Nixon might be futile."

Mr Jaworski said he offered no recommendation but, when asked how long it might take to bring Mr Nixon to trial, he wrote back that it would be nine months to a year at the earliest before a jury unaffected by all the publicity could be selected. Four days later Mr Ford announced the pardon.

The prosecutors are at pains to emphasize that their strict legal obligations are to prosecute crimes where the evidence warrants, not to indulge in attempts to expose the "whole story".

Question marks have already been left hanging over the Nixon staff and lawyers. Now Mr Elliot Richardson, the Attorney General who finally resigned rather than carry out Mr Nixon's order to dismiss Professor Archibald Cox, emerges as somewhat less than the hero some have painted him.

The report states that Mr Richardson, as well as his "own misgivings" over the way Professor Cox was broadening his inquiries in the summer of 1973.

It reports that Mr Richardson suggested that his Justice Department's criminal division should "screen" all allegations to decide whether they fell within the special prosecutor's jurisdiction. Professor Cox quickly rejected that.

Mr Richardson proposed revising the WSPF charter, to narrow it, and also proposed appointing a special "national security" consultant to Professor Cox to serve as his intermediary with the intelligence agencies. Professor Cox disagreed, seeing the Richardson proposals as "a possible hindrance rather than an aid."

Finally there was Mr Richardson's better known role, now revived here, in connection with the so-called "Stennis compromise" under which the special prosecutor was to accept someone else's "third person" version of what was on the tapes and agree to desist going to court against the President.

That produced the "Saturday night massacre" in which Mr Nixon fired Mr Richardson, Professor Cox and Mr Ruckelshaus, but left himself wide open to impeachment.

1,546 S Vietnamese refugees sail for home

From Patrick Brogan Washington, Oct 16

A Vietnamese cargo ship sailed from Guam last night, flying the North Vietnamese flag and carrying 1,546 refugees who want to go home. It is not clear whether the refugees will be allowed to land.

The South Vietnamese have denounced the Americans for allowing the ship to sail without their permission. In the immediate aftermath of their victory, they allowed those who had fled to return and a number did so on board fishing vessels.

From the beginning of the American resettlement programme there have been cases of refugees who have changed their minds. The most usual reason was that they wished to rejoin their families in South Vietnam. There are also a number of Vietnamese who were living in the United States when Saigon collapsed and who decided to return.

The Americans have been gathering these people on Guam. Discreet inquiries have been made in Vietnam about the attitude the communist authorities would adopt to them if they returned. The Americans are not saying whether the responses were favourable.

The refugees believe that they will be welcomed. The American military authorities took the precaution of asking each refugee individually and privately if he or she did indeed want to return. Between 40 and 50 then changed their minds.

This leaves 364 refugees on Guam. Just under 115,000 have been settled permanently in the United States.

Peking puts record right before Kissinger visit Chinese warning to West against illusions on détente with Russia

From David Bonavia Peking, Oct 16

China's latest strong denunciation of détente between the Soviet Union and the West seems designed to remind Dr Kissinger, the United States Secretary of State, of its position on this key issue three days before he arrives in Peking for talks.

Concentrating their attacks on Russia's desire for détente, the Chinese none the less imply that hopes in the West for an easier relationship with Moscow are illusory.

At the same time Peking has expressed serious dissatisfaction with Washington's approach to the question of Tibetan exiles, headed by the Dalai Lama, and the State Department's refusal to accept them in China.

Although American and other Western diplomats in Peking seem anxious to play down the significance of this issue, its timing can only have been planned with Dr Kissinger's impending visit in mind.

The upshot appears to be that China is determined to steer a more independent course between Moscow and Washington in the future.

Any ideas that Peking is seeking a closer relationship with Moscow after more than a decade of open polemics seems to be ruled out by the fact that Soviet block diplomats walked out of a banquet recently at which the Yugoslav Prime Minister was being entertained.

Nor would such a thaw be in keeping with the main trend of Chinese strategic thinking in the past year or two, which far from seeing a reduced threat from the Soviet Union has represented that threat as menacing China from its southern and eastern flanks more than from the common border in the north.

Although Mr Chou En-lai, the Prime Minister, is increasingly withdrawing from public affairs because of illness, this by no means suggests that the anti-Soviet policy which he has supported will be modified. Mr Teng Hsiao-ping, his most prominent deputy, seems just as committed to it.

It is Mr Teng's somewhat abrasive manner that seems to be behind the greater show of impatience with the United States this autumn. Still in disgrace at the time, he did not take part in the original rapprochement developed by Mr Chou in 1971 and 1972.

When the Chinese attack Soviet arguments that détente will increase trade and thus help to ease unemployment in the West, they are also attacking Western statesmen who argue in the same way. But their attack is aimed at those presumed naïveté of those statesmen rather than at their desire to keep the workers in a state of subjection.

Nobody, least of all the Chinese, suspects Dr Kissinger of being too clever, yet who does he suspect of being too naïve? It does seem that they may suspect him of being too naïve in thinking that complex accommodations with the Russians are a substitute for dealing from a position of strength.

Peking has had its fill of such accommodations in its day, and feels secure now only in strength, even if it is not strength in terms of nuclear warheads.

Ex-dictator's denial on massacre

From Mario Modiano Athens, Oct 16

Mr George Papadopoulos, the jailed former dictator of Greece, today denied all responsibility for the Polytechnic massacre in November 1973 and expressed his "grief and sympathy" to the families of the victims of the revolt against his regime.

Women in mourning crowded the courtroom at Korydallos prison where Mr Papadopoulos and 31 of his chief associates and agents went on trial today for ordering troops to open fire on unarmed demonstrators, killing at least 24 and wounding more than 1,000.

The denial was contained in an objection lodged by defence counsel. It said that Mr Papadopoulos, as President of the Republic, could not be held responsible for the actions of his ministers.

It invoked the British constitutional axiom that "the king can do no wrong" and emphasized that, in any case, bloodshed was contrary not only to Mr Papadopoulos's character but also to the policy he had pursued through his tenure of office, "sparing even the life of his own would-be assassin".

Mr Papadopoulos, immediately dressed in the fifth row of the dock, next to General Demetrios Ioannidis, his trusted associate who ousted him one week after the Polytechnic uprising.

Both face charges as moral instigators of the killings, but the general, who was chief of the military police at the time, is also charged with sending "agents provocateurs" inside the barricaded Polytechnic to incite the protesters to commit acts of violence "in order to have a pretext for a takeover".

The court adjourned until tomorrow after hearing the 200-page indictment.



Mr Papadopoulos and General Ioannidis in the dock at the opening of their trial in Athens yesterday.

Mr Whitlam forecasts 'utter financial chaos'

Canberra, Oct 16—The Australian Senate today rejected the Government's annual budget and the Opposition coalition said it would block its passage until Mr Whitlam, the Prime Minister, resigned.

Before the Senate vote, Mr Whitlam told the House of Representatives that rejection of his budget would result in "utter financial chaos".

The vote in the Senate was along strict party lines, with 29 Opposition senators voting against 26 members of the ruling Labour Party.

The Opposition said it would pass the budget only if Mr Whitlam called an immediate general election for both houses of Parliament.

In a heated debate in the House, before Mr Whitlam described Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Opposition leader, as "a man without honour, without principle—a man who knows what is honourable, yet who does the thoroughly dishonourable". He said the Opposition's actions posed "a grave constitutional crisis".

Mr Fraser said the Opposition actions were necessary because of Government mismanagement and impropriety by Mr Whitlam and his Cabinet.

Without Senate approval of the budget, the Government will run out of funds within weeks and be unable to pay civil servants or provide vital services.

In the course of the debate, Mr Fraser said that a member of the Cabinet had leaked Treasury documents to Mr Phillip Lynch, the Deputy Opposition leader. Mr Lynch, the federal Treasurer, denied the allegation and accused Mr Fraser of "jettisoning all principle".

Mr Fraser did not name the minister. He said the information related to secret attempts by the Government to raise up to \$8,000m (£4,000m) in loans from Middle East oil states.

"The Prime Minister has been trying to find out who has been available to a certain Treasury document to the Opposition?"

"Would it be reprehensible if someone came to me from a Treasury official and said: 'The Prime Minister has been trying to find out who has been available to a certain Treasury document to the Opposition?'"

"Let me tell him that it is from somebody who is sitting on the front bench at this moment. The person who made the document available did so because he believes that, in the national interest, the Opposition ought to have that information. I did it because he is a worthy person."

Mr Hayden told the House that he had questioned every front-bench minister about the allegation and believed it to be completely untrue.

More than 4,000 trade unionists staged an angry protest outside Parliament today as Mr Robert Hawke, the country's most powerful union leader, threatened a nationwide strike in support of the Government. UPI and Reuters.

Leading article, page 13

Papua takes over in Bougainville

Port Moresby, Oct 16—The Government of Papua New Guinea today officially suspended the secessionist Bougainville provincial government and decided to take over the administration of the copper-rich island.

Sir Maori Kiki, the acting Prime Minister, said in a statement that his Government had taken the action "in the interests of the ordinary people of Bougainville".

The provincial Government had not been abolished and the suspension was temporary, he emphasized.

Bougainville's breakaway from Papua New Guinea came to light in June when leaders of the provincial Government disagreed with the national Government over the size of funds allocated for works. They declared independence unilaterally on September 11. Reuters.

US intelligence papers add to riddle of Ann Chapman's murder in Greece

Continued from page 1

This document contains code word material.

Page two, bearing the date March 21, 1963, was headed "Defence Intelligence Agency". It then went on to detail intelligence reports and précis from Russia, Cuba, Argentina, Korea, Indonesia, Morocco, Algeria, Laos and Guatemala.

The final page dealt with political groups working in Turkey, including a group of 5,700 retired army officers, some of them generals, with a run-down on their capabilities.

Sandwiched between the pages of the document was a letter dated January 20, 1961, from a colonel in the Washington office of the Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence. It was addressed to the Army Attaché at the American Embassy in Ankara, Turkey.

The letter says, in part: "The May 1960 revolution in Turkey and the subsequent changes have a decisive influence on the foreign policy of the new Government."

It went on: "Therefore your principal collection efforts should be devoted to obtaining information about the Turkish Army, the officers in particular, the mood and differences in the Government and the Committee of National Unity. Your attention is drawn to the need for more determined efforts regarding the Project BOSPHORUS."

Among a number of assignments, the attaché was ordered to determine which groups of officers were in favour of changes in Turkish foreign policy. The most important information should be transmitted immediately; in particular measures adopted to counter anti-American feelings in the Turkish Army.

Mr Ken Morgan, secretary of the NUJ, sent the letter and document to Mr Chapman who in June, 1973, passed them on to Scotland Yard. Inquiries in Washington reveal that the documents are genuine but how Miss Chapman became involved with them is still a mystery her father and Mr Gray are trying to unravel.

Mr Gray told me last night: "The sudden arrival of the documents is strange enough but there is still an even greater mystery. There is a page missing from that secret document. I believe a vital clue, possibly a code word or a pencilled telephone number, may have been written on that page. Whoever has that page probably knows the truth about Ann's murder."

Meanwhile, Mr Chapman is trying to clear up another discrepancy he has found in the evidence given at the trial of Nicholas Mounds. A post-mortem examination, showed that there was food in Ann's stomach, in spite of her assertion that she was "starving", and had barely eaten anything all that day.

by the police questioned, probably given something to eat and then murdered by them", Mr Chapman says.

There is also strong circumstantial evidence that before Miss Chapman left for Greece she had contacts with a number of dissident Greek political activists in London.

Mr Gray believes they may have "tipped off" an extremist faction in Athens that she was travelling to Greece and was betrayed to the junta police as a spy.

Marks found on her body were not consistent with the account of the attack given by Mounds at his trial.

Mr Mounds, who was arrested 11 months after Miss Chapman's body was found, was a former prison officer who had served a four-year sentence for sexual offences. But at his trial evidence was given that Miss Chapman's clothing was undisturbed and there was no sign of any sexual assault.

Lord Shackleton to lead Falklands survey

By Roger Berthoud

Argentina at present favours a settlement of the dispute over sovereignty by negotiation, but a new government, or a splinter group, might seek to win domestic popularity by invading the islands, which are 7,000 miles from Britain but only 350 miles from Argentina. They are defended by 37 Royal Marines.

Meanwhile, the Argentine Government has enlisted widespread international sympathy for its claim to sovereignty, even though the 200 or so islands, with a total area the size of Wales, have been administered by Britain since 1833.

The survey has been commissioned by the British Government at the request of the Falkland Islands Executive Council, which has six members and is headed by Mr Neville French, the Governor. The move reflects British concern at the weakening of the islands' economy.

This at present depends on some 700,000 sheep and the export of wool; but a geological survey last year by Professor D. H. Griffiths of Birmingham University concluded that the prospects of finding oil were sufficiently promising to encourage commercial exploration.

Round South Georgia Island, there are also enormous stocks of krill, a form of small prawn, which is a valuable source of edible protein. The Japanese, Russians, Poles and West Germans are showing keen interest in exploiting it.

Lord Shackleton is taking experts with him to assess the prospects for developments in "oil, minerals, fisheries and alginates, and to make recommendations". A further aim will be to advise on the need for capital expenditure over the next five years, and to assess the financial and social implications of any recommendations.

One of Lord Shackleton's problems will be that the cooperation with Argentina, in, for example, the exploitation of oil or fishing resources, would be likely to be seen by the islanders as a step towards a takeover by Buenos Aires. These suspicions are understandable.

The British Government's obligations to the islanders, who enjoy vigorous support at Westminster with cooperation with Argentina and Britain's broad national interests in the issue, where it has few friends.

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EST EUROPE

ing to lead 350,000 Moroccan marchers to Spanish Sahara

bat, Oct 16.—King Hassan Morocco told his people that he would lead a peaceful march of 350,000 unarmed civilians to the disputed Spanish Sahara territory.

A broadcast, the king engaged a "tyrant" to fire on the unarmed marchers. He said they would defend themselves if fired by Spanish troops, but he said that the Moroccan would protect the marchers against possible attack by Algerian forces.

The king said the marchers would be accompanied by 470 ambulances, 35,000 litres of water and 2,300 tons of fuel. The march would be organized by 10,000 people, nearly 8,000 lorries to take the marchers into the desert.

The king said the marchers would be taken in all trains from various parts of the country to Marrakech, and then by lorry to the Sahara.

Immediately after the king's speech, demonstrators marched through Morocco's main cities claiming their support for plans.

He spoke a few hours after the International Court at The Hague had ruled that the Spanish Sahara's "Nomadic tribes had some 'juridical links' with the Moroccan Crown before the Spanish conquest, but that this should not prevent the referendum on the territory's future proposed by Spain and Algeria and endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly.

The court said it found no evidence to oppose the principle of self-determination for the Sahara territory.

The king said in his broadcast: "We will all be without arms, since we do not want war. We did not take our case to the International Court in order to go to war."

No tyrant, not even one totally devoid of faith, would dare to give an order to fire on 350,000 persons without arms. If we meet any forces other than Spanish forces, we will resist, and even if we meet only Spaniards, we will greet them and allow them to fire on us if they wish."

AP, Reuters.

Madrid: Spain today "welcomed with satisfaction" the opinion given by the International Court on the Spanish Sahara, the Europa press agency reported here.—Agence France-Press.

Wires of German trawler hit by Iceland gunboat

Reykjavik, Oct 16.—An Icelandic patrol ship today cut the wires of a West German trawler in the first use of force by Iceland created a 200-mile hunt yesterday.

The Icelandic coastguard reported that the 20 West German trawlers had been seen fishing off the coast of Iceland's southern coast.

West German trawlers are expected to be the chief target of the new fishing ban since Bonn has no agreement with Iceland. Britain and several other countries have agreements which expire next month.

Iceland declared the new ban to preserve fishing grounds off its coast.—Reuters

van der Vat writes from Bonn: "The German Foreign Minister, today, phoned Mr. Agostsson, his Icelandic counterpart, in an effort to avert the threatened renewal of the 'cod war'."

The two ministers agreed on a round of talks in Reykjavik between Mr. Agostsson and Herr Hans-Jürgen Wischnewski, Minister of State at the Bonn Foreign Ministry, on October 22.

Herr Genschel also said that Bonn would see to it that the 138-ton trawler Altona has lost its fishing gear. He said that he expected Icelandic coastguard vessels to refrain from interfering with West German trawlers "to maintain a favourable climate for negotiation."

Michael Horsby writes from Strasbourg: "Mr. Pierre Lardinois, the EEC Commissioner for Agriculture, today promised the European Parliament that in the next few weeks he would outline proposals to help tackle the crisis in the fishing industry. These would include a review of the basic price of fish products."

He said that the Community would be looking for a "trawler-free zone" to help protect spawning grounds.

Nobel Prize for work on cancer research

From Our Correspondent Stockholm, Oct 16

Dr Renato Dulbecco, a 61-year-old Italian-born American who now works at the Imperial Cancer Research Fund Laboratory, London, today shared the Nobel Prize for medicine with two of his former pupils.

The \$59,000 prize was made in recognition of their discoveries involving interaction between tumour viruses and the genetic material of the cell.

"They have found different effects and circumstances which cause cancer," Professor Peter Reichard, a member of the Swedish Institute, said today.

"They have not come up with any new methods for treating cancer, but their discoveries are still considered a giant step in cancer research."

Dr David Baltimore, aged 37, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, was Dr. Dulbecco's student at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies in California, and Dr Howard Temin, aged 40, of the University of Wisconsin, was his student at the California Institute of Technology. Dr. Dulbecco, who left Italy in 1949, moved from the Salk Institute to London in 1964.

Dr Dulbecco said his prize had taken him by surprise. "I am not a scientist," he said, "but it came to me suddenly I have not had time to think about it yet."

"This is the greatest thing that can happen to a scientist. I am in a fantastic mood. I have no special plans but to go on working in England."

His work on cancer-causing viruses had occupied him for 15 years. "But I think the work that has been singled out was one phase of my work," he said.

"I showed that the genetic material of cancer-causing viruses, their DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid), becomes incorporated in the DNA of the cell."

"Once it is there, it remains there forever so that all the progeny of the cell have the same altered characteristics."

Nature-Times News Service writes: Dr Dulbecco's work has been on the mechanics by which animal viruses insert their own genetic material (DNA) into that of animal cells. This can enable the cell to convert the cell into a virus factory, but it can also transform the cell into a cancerous state.

Dr Temin and Dr Baltimore share the credit for an outstanding discovery, about what are known as RNA (ribonucleic acid) tumour viruses. RNA usually acts as the messenger molecule by which the genetic instructions of body cells are translated into proteins. Dr Temin and Dr Baltimore were convinced that RNA tumour viruses must be able to reproduce themselves in a DNA form to enter the cell's genetic machinery. Ten years after Dr Temin first predicted it, both men almost simultaneously found the enzyme that enables them to do it. The enzyme enables the virus to make DNA from RNA.

The discovery stood conventional biology on its head because it reversed the genetic process by which DNA makes RNA and RNA then makes protein.

Many RNA viruses are involved in animal cancers and it is believed that some human cancers may be caused in the same way. Work with these viruses has also shed considerable light on the basis of the genetic workings of cells.

Sudden chill in Giscard visit puzzles Paris

From Charles Hargrove Paris, Oct 16

French commentators are trying today to explain why Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet party leader, suddenly called off first his private meeting with President Giscard d'Estaing yesterday afternoon, and then, a few hours later, the meeting scheduled on Saturday, the last day of the state visit.

Unconfirmed reports suggest that this may now be curtailed, both for this reason and because the French President would want to make it clear that he does not appreciate the Soviet leader's manner of giving him, and through him other Western countries, lessons on the limits of détente.

None of the hypotheses is, it is acknowledged, entirely convincing.

A sudden turn for the worse in Mr Brezhnev's health is the explanation which, superficially, seems the most satisfying, and the one which the presidential entourage tended to put forward.

But Le Monde points out, if Mr Brezhnev was suddenly taken ill, how was it known yesterday that he would be well enough to meet M Giscard d'Estaing tomorrow? And why French ministers accompanying the President to visit Tolsty home and the battlefield of Borodino instead of having their scheduled technical discussions with their Soviet opposite numbers?

So the inclination of the press and political circles in Paris is to fall back on a diplomatic reason. M Giscard d'Estaing's entourage sticks firmly to his own explanation that the postponement of yesterday's meeting and the cancellation of the one on Saturday were due to "a reason of convenience, mutually agreed."

Edmund Stevens writes from Moscow: "M Giscard's summit meeting has largely given way to tourism. While the presidential party was sightseeing in Kiev today it was confirmed in Moscow that the only remaining meeting of the two leaders would take place tomorrow and would presumably be mainly devoted to the formalities of signing documents."

In the absence of any official explanation, conjecture here centred on possible reasons for a snub. M Giscard's Kremlin banquet speech on the Helsinki agreement, with its emphasis on the extension of détente to ideology, may have upset the Soviet leaders.

Moscow is disappointed by the extent to which M Giscard has deviated from the policies pursued by his predecessors.

OVERSEAS

President Kenyatta tells MPs he will arrest all dissidents

Nairobi, Oct 16.—President Jomo Kenyatta today warned Parliament, which had just seen two of its most prominent members placed in detention, that dissidents would not be tolerated.

Addressing a meeting of all MPs after the arrest at gunpoint of the Deputy Speaker and another active Government critic, the President said similar action would be taken against any MP who did not support the Government or tried to obstruct it.

"People appear to have forgotten that the hawk is always in the sky and ready to swoop on the chickens," he told the meeting, according to MPs who were there.

The meeting, held in private, was called as the President faced a crisis in the Kenya African National Union (KANU), the country's sole political party to which all MPs belong.

Mr John Marie Seroney, the Deputy Speaker, and Mr Martin Shikuku, an outspoken MP, were arrested by armed plainclothes police in the Parliament building last night, and their detention was officially confirmed today.

The two had been criticized for being disloyal to the Government.

Reliable sources said that at today's two-hour meeting, President Kenyatta made clear that he had personally ordered the two to be held under the preservation of public security law which allows detention without charge or trial.

He also told MPs that he knew the names of others who were not following KANU and Government policy and would act against them if necessary.—Reuters.

Our Nairobi Correspondent writes: What would have caused little stir in other surroundings has become a subject of heated argument in Nairobi. This is probably mainly because the affair follows closely on the launching of a vigorous programme to revitalize KANU, which has made little impact on Kenyan affairs since 1969, when Mr Tom Mboya, the last secretary general, was murdered in a Nairobi street.

Mr Seroney and Mr Shikuku have freely expressed their criticism of government policies, and the latest incident brought things to a head.

The impression among members is that Parliament is likely to be a much quieter place in future. Since the unsolved murder of the popular Mr J. M. Kariuki early this year, there have been frequent expressions of dissent, in which Mr Shikuku and Mr Seroney have been prominent.

Both the detained members came from western Uganda, but from different tribal areas from Mr Oginga Odinga, the former Kenya Vice-President, and other members of the Luo tribe who were detained in 1969 after forming the short-lived opposition party, the Kenya People's Union.

Mr Odinga was released in 1971, and another former KPU member, Mr Achieng Omondi, was freed last weekend.

Mr Seroney is a member of the Nandi tribe, and Mr Shikuku is a member of the Ababuya, both of which are numerically smaller than the Luo, and the even larger Kikuyu tribe to which President Kenyatta belongs.

Arab ministers fail to find Lebanon solution

From Our Correspondent Cairo, Oct 16

Arab foreign ministers today warned Israel against exploiting the troubled situation in Lebanon. This came in a statement, issued after a two-day emergency session of the Arab League convened here to consider the situation in Lebanon.

The ministers appealed to the warring factions to exercise restraint and promised financial aid to help to reconstruct what was destroyed during the fighting.

Their statement fell short of any decisive move to end the higher fighting in Lebanon. Observers here believed that the absence of Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), two major parties involved in the Lebanese conflict, was the main reason of the ministers' inability to come out with concrete decisions.

Libya also boycotted the meeting.

Mr Mahmoud Riad, the Arab League's secretary-general, indicated this when he told reporters after today's meeting: "If the ministers found it possible to come out with anything more, they would have done so."

The Syrians and the Palestinians had claimed that the meeting was an attempt to divert attention from the recent Egyptian-Israeli interim peace agreement, which they claimed was a sell-out of the Arab cause.

Beirut: New exchanges between the Lebanese Government and the PLO raised hopes today of ending Lebanon's latest round of factional bloodshed. A promising development was the presentation of a five-point note on the crisis by the PLO.—Reuters.

Attempt to link Zionism with racism

From Our Own Correspondent New York, Oct 16

The more militant Arab countries won a victory at the United Nations last night when they succeeded in tabling a resolution which describes Zionism as a form of racism and racial discrimination.

The expectation was that the resolution would be adopted by the General Assembly's committee on human rights and then go to the full assembly for approval.

The aim of the resolution is to link Zionism with apartheid as an ideology to be opposed, and so to bring further pressure to bear on Israel.

There is strong opposition to the resolution from the United States, Britain and other members of the European Community.

Sakharov plea rejected by Dr Kissinger

From Our Correspondent Ottawa, Oct 16

Dr Henry Kissinger, the American Secretary of State, says the United States believes action to promote the cause of civil rights in the Soviet Union must be pursued in a non-dramatic way.

At a press conference yesterday after his one-day visit to Ottawa, Dr Kissinger indicated that he did not think much of the plea by the dissident Soviet physicist, Dr Andrei Sakharov, for an international campaign to support the civil liberties movement in the Soviet Union.

The American Government had repeatedly stated its concern over this question, he replied. It had done so in the European security conference

and in bilateral discussions with the Russians.

Our Copenhagen Correspondent writes: Dr Simon Wiesenthal, founder of the Jewish Documentation Centre, today defended the International Sakharov Hearing on Human Rights in the Soviet Union, which opens tomorrow. Soviet criticism could not be accepted.

Britain in clash over pollution

in David Cross embour, Oct 16

The British Government is questioned the future of the European Community's whole environment by challenging new EEC measures to reduce pollution in rivers and coastal seas.

One of the Community's gatherings of ministers, on the environment, on the 15th, Mr Denis Howell, the British representative, told his colleagues that the British approach to pollution control at community level must be high environmental quality criteria.

It runs counter to the view urged by most other member states, the West, in particular, that the basis should be placed on firm emission standards for pollutants throughout the Community.

The specific issue at stake was a new draft scheme worked out by the European Commission to impose strict limits on the discharge into water of a "black list" group of highly toxic substances like mercury and cadmium. National authorities would be required to refuse consent for the discharge of these substances until they were satisfied that these limits had been met.

The British feel that a system of uniform minimum standards regulating the flow of specific pollutants into the environment fails to take account of regional differences in the Community. They would prefer a case-by-case system on what the water can absorb in given circumstances.

Mr Howell explained to his colleagues today: "The Community is too big and the conditions within it vary too widely for any approach based on detailed control of emissions to be effective."

The West Germans are strongly opposed to this flexible approach, mainly for competition reasons. They argue that it would be economically unfair for their industry to have to install expensive pollution control equipment.

After a long discussion, Signor Carlo Scarascia Mugnozza, the European Commissioner for environment policy, was charged with the task of trying to find a political solution in time for a further meeting of the ministers in December.

Spain seeks arrest of air force officer

From Harry Debelius Madrid, Oct 16

Madrid newspapers today published a Government order for the capture of Captain José Ignacio Domínguez Martín-Sánchez, of the Spanish Air Force, without mentioning that he is the officer who told the world in a Paris press conference this week about a democratic movement within General Franco's armed forces.

The captain is wanted in connection with a sedition case in which 12 other army and air force officers are already under arrest. According to informed sources, he left his Madrid home on July 29 only hours before military police went there to arrest him.

The 12 arrests so far, with probably more to come, had to do with the clandestine Democratic Military Union (UDM), a movement within the Spanish armed forces, most of whose members are middle ranking officers or senior non-commissioned officers. They favour a peaceful transition to a democratic form of government in Spain.

A confidential document prepared by the intelligence services of the Spanish Air Force, dated August 4, reached today. It claimed that the doctrine of the UDM is fundamentally based on freedom and social justice, giving priority to the former in order not to fall into the category of utopian communism.

"It can be included within the framework of a very advanced kind of European socialism."

Vienna wedding ends battle with the Kremlin

Vienna, Oct 16.—Fräulein Johanna Steindl, an Austrian schoolteacher, and Mr Alexander Sokolov, a Soviet journalist, were married in Vienna today after a five-month battle to win Soviet approval for the wedding.

After two abortive attempts to marry in Moscow, Fräulein Steindl went on a four-day fast three weeks ago in St Stephen's Cathedral in Vienna as a protest against Russia's attitude.

Dr Kreisky, the Austrian Chancellor, also appealed to Moscow and nine days ago Mr Sokolov arrived here with a Soviet exit visa valid for a month.—Reuters.

Outlying European areas want better recognition

From John Young Galway

A conference of representatives of Europe's outlying areas, organized by the Council of Europe, ended in Galway yesterday with a remarkable show of solidarity among delegates from distant and widely differing corners of the continent.

The general mood was one of resentment against the concentration of political and economic power, embodied preeminently in the structure of the EEC.

A strongly worded declaration suggested that a sort of second class Europe was emerging, somewhere between the industrialized regions and the Third World. A "new deal" was needed to correct the imbalance between developed and underdeveloped areas.

"Everything is happening, as if the construction of Europe was the concern of a few privileged regions situated around the large capitals and conurbations of north-west Europe, from London to Milan, from Paris to Hamburg, and could not interest to the same extent the peripheral regions and distant provinces at the edges of Europe," it stated.

The declaration criticized what it called "the too narrow and too liberal economic concept of the Treaty of Rome" which was opposed to deliberate regional planning and to the priority which should be given to public service, rather than to immediately profitable activities.

It drew attention to the excessive administrative centralization of some countries which encouraged other forms of concentration, combined with a laissez faire attitude which favoured the stronger regions at the expense of the weaker.

The refusal of Norway to join the EEC should have been a sufficient demonstration of the ineffectiveness of the Community's regional policy, it added.

French justice facing dilemma over crime

Our Own Correspondent Paris, Oct 16

Against a climate of mounting crime and public concern, a trial at Beauvais last week of the almost unprecedented sentence of death on a man in a case in which the prosecutor had called for imprisonment.

Yesterday, at Versailles, in a case of murder with premeditation, the public prosecutor called for five years' imprisonment, sentencing the man to death.

As M Jean Lecanuet, the Justice Minister, acknowledged this week, French justice is the object of sharp controversy.

"You will have to listen to your own consciences," the public prosecutor solemnly warned the Versailles jury. The jury heeded his appeal and found the accused guilty. But to demonstrate its sympathy, it passed a two-year suspended sentence.

Brassiere plant women break ambassador's rib

Lisbon, Oct 16.—Mr Herman Kling, the Swedish Ambassador, suffered a broken rib today when he was jostled and pushed by angry workers from a brassiere factory as he tried to escort their Swedish employer out of the Ritz Hotel in Lisbon.

The workers, most of them women, were refusing to let Mr Sven Engblom, their employer, leave the hotel until a settlement had been reached over the future of the plant.

The ambassador finally left the hotel without Mr Engblom, who decided to continue negotiating with the workers.

They claim the Swedes have sold the Candelaria factory for a nominal Swedish crown (10p) to escape paying redundancy money.—Reuters, AP.

Sier conditions ail for rider group

Dan van der Vat Oct 16

Stuttgart High Court found alleged leaders of today-Meinhof terrorist today ordered the prisonaries to ease their detention.

The court decided to provide the hearing in the case of the accused. The court appealed to the Federal High Court. The trial is to resume on October 28.

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Writing novels slowly but with hardly a catch

A pilot who was crazy could be grounded. All he had to do was ask. But as soon as he did, he was no longer crazy and had to fly more missions. If he flew them he was crazy and didn't have to; but if he didn't want to be sane and did. This was *Catch 22*. The phrase has become a byword for all the absurdities and anomalies of life. Joseph Heller, the man who thought it up, is in London this week to celebrate the millionth paperback sale of the book.

Catch 22 was about an American squadron of bomber pilots stationed on an island off the Italian coast towards the end of the Second World War. The setting for the book was Joseph Heller's own past. Like Captain Yossarian, his anguished hero, he was a bombardier, based in Italy, and he flew missions over northern Italy. But the real subject of the book was America in the 1950s. "I was too young and too stupid when I was a soldier to understand the nature of the mentality of what went into *Catch 22*. That all came later. It was the America of the cold war I wrote about, the Rosenberg trials, the McCarthy hearings, the loyalty oaths. It was not war so much as incompetence: the bungling, the corruption of postwar America. With all the verbiage of the ad man, the businessman on the make, the politician."

The book came out in 1961. It was well reviewed, but sold better in this country than in America. Then came the Vietnam war. Within weeks *Catch 22* was a best seller, read by people who seek in it a very different kind of sanity, condemning the arbitrariness and chaos of war. Somewhat improbably it became standard reading in the US Air Force, and at the Indianapolis Naval Academy. "Officers told me it was in every soldier's pocket. They wrote to add that they felt as I did—except that they thought the war should still be fought, but with honour. And I thought that America's role in it was terrible. It was a very more factually descriptive of Vietnam than of World War Two, though I wrote it years before it happened. Of course everyone is against war, except for a few real nuts. But I'm not pacifist. I was never against the war. If I was writing the book I would like to get that in. During my three years' fighting I never heard a single discussion about the merits of not fighting."

After the war Joseph Heller, a New Yorker who grew up on Coney Island during the depression and at 16 delivered telegrams for Western Union, became a Fulbright scholar at St. Catherine's, Oxford. "The quality of the education was incredible. I had done a Masters at Columbia in American literature. At Oxford I took Chaucer, Shakespeare, Milton. It was my best year."

While still at Oxford he was sent on to teach at Pennsylvania State College. "I think he got more because of the short stories he was already writing for the *Atlantic Monthly* and *Esquire* than for his academic qualifications. It was not a success. "We were well matched, the students and I. They were not interested in learning to write



English. I was not interested in teaching them." Two years later, by then married and with a child, he went back to New York to look for a job as a copy writer trainee in advertising, an occupation he pursued with frequent promotions, all the time he wrote *Catch 22*. "It was nice work. Teaching kills ambition. Besides, I was good at it. I was an executive in sales promotion at *McCall's* magazine by the time the book was out."

The idea for *Catch 22* came to him one evening when he had been writing copywriter for just under a month. He was already 30. Next day he wrote out the first chapter, spent the rest of the week rewriting it, then sent it off to a magazine. They accepted it. He did not want to write it as a book without knowing it would be published, so he waited the year it took for the magazine to publish it, and five publishers approached him with offers, before writing it out. The speed with which he had produced the first 50 pages had been deceptive. It took him seven years to finish, writing as weekends and in the evenings. "I had become a slow writer. I had a tendency to write much longer than I need, knowing that in the end I'll cut a lot. *Catch 22* came down from 800 to 625 pages."

Not until a movie company had bought the film rights for 100,000 dollars in 1962 did Joseph Heller feel he could leave advertising. He had an idea for another book in his mind and thought that he could finish in three years. As it turned out it took him 12.

He did not get down to it until 1964, spending two years working and arranging a play, *We Bombed in Nice*. *However*, which had a short run on Broadway. "It was an exciting experience, but painful. It's all too slow. I like novel writing because I'm alone." He also wrote book reviews. "I don't think novelists should write reviews—they use them as an opportunity to write

about themselves." And he did a script for *Sex and the Single Girl*, "for the income and the experience." The setting of *Something Happened* is, once again, Joseph Heller's own past. The book is about an executive in a large corporation; the company is modelled on *Time* magazine, where he spent three years in the advertising department. "I didn't want to write an anti-corporation book. For one thing it reads badly; for another it's not true of firms or a lot of other big companies. If anything they are too nice." But his theme is sanity, fears of inadequacy, doubts, ideas about failure, the collapse of family life. It is an extremely bleak book, written with dry, rather grisly humour. "People say to me that things in it are so like their own lives they cannot believe I wasn't wiretapping them. The middle-aged find it gloomy. The young say it makes them optimistic—it confirms their view of a future they want to avoid."

Joseph Heller has a very special look for a man who has written two black books. "I don't have the sort of despair people read into them. Of course most of the things I write have gone through my mind or imagination. But I don't have a brain damaged child, and I was never in a job long enough to feel desperate in it. What I don't find in my mind I take from friends, newspapers, magazine stories. I used to have strong fears, about losing my job, about authority. That came from being born poor and Jewish in New York at a time of anti-semitism. I think I've grown out of them. But everything in *Something Happened* is pretty much about losing my job, about happiness, latent fear of homosexuality, anxiety. I think I can put myself into other people's shoes and imagine what they feel like."

The fears that the corporation employees have about losing their jobs in the book are very vivid fears. More vivid though are Joseph Heller's scenes of family life and the relationships between parents and children. There is a universal pattern in family life. And there's not much justification for the family unit now there is no economic need for it. As society regresses, everyone finds their mother a burden when they don't need her. The only parts of *Something Happened* that he cut were when he felt he had written too close to his own family life.

Joseph Heller does not consider either *Catch 22* or *Something Happened*, the only two novels he has written, as comedies though both rely on a sort of grim irony, as well as constant repetition, for their effect. "Humour in itself is not my objective. I look for the most effective kind of humour to make my point. The new novel he has just begun is to be more obviously funny. "It is based on the story of a professor who gets close to being offered the job of presidential adviser. The idea came from Kissinger. I should like to include him as a minor figure of no importance. If he's still around when the book comes out." In style the new book is to be like the novels of Evelyn Waugh, which he is now consciously re-reading one by one. "I'm immensely susceptible to being influenced by the style and pace of people I read."

One reason why Joseph Heller, an unaffected, rather smiling man of 52 with curly grey hair, is a two-time Pulitzer Prize winner, is that he says that you have to try things like promotion tours once in your life. And *Something Happened* has been at the top of the paperback best seller list in the United States for a month now. But the real reason is that he is having a good time being famous. "I worked hard on the books. I wanted them to be successful. But I was well thought of. A sign of being interviewed is that they are."

Caroline Moorehead

When happiness is the means to be versatile

Total control over their work is not given to many people. James Clavell, as writer/director/producer of films, including *To Sir With Love* and *Lost Valley*, is one of the happy few. In his role as best selling novelist, his third book, *Shogun* (Hodder and Stoughton, £4.95) was published this month.

It is a historical novel of seventeenth-century Japan, a curious choice, one would have thought, for a man who was a prisoner of the Japanese during the war. "I don't work in the way normal people would view it. I do what I like to do. I feel I am living on borrowed time. When I was young, I should have been dead, lots of times. I was 18 when I was caught with the 18th Armoured Division, and from 18 until 21 I was in Changi. Ten thousand survived—one in 14. Why I survived to become the fifteenth out of that particular fourteen, and for what particular reasons I don't know. *King Rat* was a search to get the answer, in a way. If I died tomorrow, I'd have to have the view that it's been smashing, it's been fine."

"There was a line in *King Rat*—'Changi was genesis, the place of beginning again'. You had to look at yourself and think that was you. If you don't accept it, kindly die. There was a time some years ago when I became very depressed. I had forgotten Changi. When I remember it, I can always think what right have I to be depressed? But if you go up, you have to come down. Which other contemporary novelist is a writer/director/producer? I can think of Elia Kazan who is a novelist, but mostly a director/writer. I am even a poet—I claim that because I sold one poem for \$25 to a newspaper. I never cashed the cheque. I was so awed by it. I have the opportunity of going all over the world, I have a lovely wife and two lovely daughters, a dog and relatively good health." The Clavells live in Vancouver, Los Angeles and London.

The son of a naval family, whose tradition stretches back to before Trafalgar, James Clavell was brought up in Chatham, Plymouth, Portsmouth and Scapa. After the war he set out on his career in films. "I wanted to be a director, and the only way to become a director was to become a producer and then to appoint myself director. But, to become a producer, you must have money or a property. Having neither, I decided to construct a property. I started off here in England, pretending that I had discovered this great writing talent (under an assumed name) and that I wanted to produce the film." Advised that the quickest way to production was to become a distributor, James Clavell joined a friend

in Monarch Films. He was on his way. Then he went to the United States and never a dull moment since.

His first novel, semi-autobiographical, set in Changi, *King Rat* (Coronet, 60p) took 12 months to write in 1962, and was made into a successful film. His second novel, *Shogun* (Coronet, £1) took 241 days, and *Shogun*, an enormous book, took him three years, less four days. "I started it on April 21, which is my wife April's birthday. I knew I must finish it in time because I wanted to give her the first and last pages as a birthday present. Three years is a long time to take out of a career to write a novel, but he is able to do this because of his other career. "I have used the film industry—it has given me the money to give me the time to write books. I have written three best sellers, but you don't make enough money from them unless you sell the film rights, and then you have the opportunity to do something else. I sold the film rights of *King Rat* and spread the money over five years—which meant I could pay the mortgage and the school fees. Then I did some more films and that money brought me time to go to Hongkong to look for *Tai-Pan*, and when I sold that, I was free to make *To Sir With Love* for nothing."

Each successful book has meant an increase in the amount paid for film rights. It is a continuing process, and James Clavell is prepared to give it a helping hand. "When I'm walking down Fifth Avenue passing a book store if my book is not in the window, then I usually go in and put it in the window." Other best sellers have been surreptitiously buried in copies of *Shogun*.

Tai-Pan was intended to be about the history of Hongkong, but he had a serious problem at the end of 100 pages he had covered four days leaving another 123 years to go. *Tai-Pan* therefore covers six months, as does *Shogun*, from April 21 to October 21, 1600. There was an enormous amount of research to do. "In some ways there are similarities between the Japanese and English. Both are sea oriented, and both have a military history. In Japan to be a soldier and a man of letters is normal, as in England. Scratch an Englishman and you find a pirate is not true in Japan—they prefer the group. I found this particular era terribly romantic." Research took him to the London Library, the Japanese Society, the British Museum, to libraries in Vancouver and Los Angeles. Most of the first hand reports came from the Jesuits, both Spanish and Portuguese. And then there was the Japanese side of it. The novel is founded on historical characters and events ("only the names have been changed to protect the innocent").



"My Canadian publishers almost had a heart attack when they heard about it—who the hell wants to know about seventeenth-century Japan," said—but in America it has already been on the best selling list for three months, and in addition, the *Literary Guild* is publishing it in two volumes. "I felt an enormous glow when I finished *Shogun*. I feel it is certainly my best work so far."

Now he would like to get back to film making. "I get great pleasure from it, because it is exciting. You have enormous control power for a short period of time. At a cost of 70,000 to 80,000 dollars a day you have to make decisions today which you will have to stick to in a year's time. The film industry is rather like war—the difference being that in war at least you know who the enemy is."

First of all, he is going to take a journey to Tahiti, New Zealand, Australia (his birthplace), Singapore, Hongkong, Seoul, Tokyo, and home "if there is such a place as home—I have pieces of home in Vancouver, Los Angeles and London." One day he will write the book on Hongkong. "Then I shall effervesce like the bubbles in champagne and vanish into the hereafter! I work hard and get a lot of pleasure out of it. You've got to use life for what it is—a one-shot deal, maybe."

Philippa Toomey

Business to Business

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Will Turkey now make up its mind on Cyprus?

The lifting of the American arms embargo on Turkey and the results of last Sunday's Turkish elections have cleared the way for meaningful progress towards a durable Cyprus settlement. But the question remains: Will the Turks act?

Turkey defied the embargo to prove to the world that she is a proud nation and refuses to negotiate under duress. Now the world wants to know if Turkey's good faith matches her pride.

The Turkish leaders had invoked the embargo and the elections as the main obstacles to any action on their part for the settlement of the Cyprus problem. Mr Süleyman Demirel, the Prime Minister, personally assured President Forth and other western leaders that as soon as these two hurdles were safely behind him, he would take the initiative.

It was a significant victory for the Turks when the United States Congress repealed the arms embargo in late September. This week 21 Phantom fighter-bombers held up by the embargo began arriving in Turkey—significantly, in time for independence day on October 29. Mr Demirel's position was also strengthened by the mid-term Senate elections in Turkey. The Prime Minister scored notable gains by regrouping the splintered right-wing vote behind his Justice Party.

Mr Demirel had been unable to formulate a concrete Cyprus policy because he feared the collapse of his weak four-party coalition. His main partner, the Islamic and chauvinistic National Salvation Party under deputy Premier Mr Necmettin Erbakan, followed such an absurdly intransigent line on Cyprus that the government could not think of negotiations. At the same time Mr Demirel was aware that Mr Süleyman Ersoy, leader of his main opposition, the Republican People's Party, had won enormous popularity because as Prime Minister he had ordered the army to land in Cyprus. In a general election Mr Ersoy would have been swept into power.

For the past seven months, therefore, Mr Demirel, with a tiny overall majority, has been resisting Mr Ersoy's pressure for early elections and temporizing on Cyprus. In the pool to renew one third of the Senate, however, both the Justice Party and the Republicans scored spectacular gains at the expense of the smaller parties, including Mr Erbakan's, which had held the balance of power since the inconclusive elections in 1973. Mr Demirel need no longer fear a landslide in favour of Mr Ersoy, and the losses of the National Salvation Party may either cause its parliamentary party to defect to the Justice Party or force it to comply with the coalition's consensus on Cyprus.

Mr Demirel feels he should honour Turkey's pledge for a move on Cyprus, but he still has to rely on Mr Erbakan's 48 deputies and he knows that Mr Ersoy will spare him no criticism, whichever way he may move. On the other hand he knows that if he continues to temporize it will not be too long before an exasperated Dr Kissinger starts breathing down his neck, alone or in the company of Europeans weary of Turkey's total failure to contribute constructively to a Cyprus settlement.

Unless external issues are dealt with, Turkish leaders will be unable to turn to more pressing matters at home

Everyone in Turkey knows how the two big parties, as well as the military, would be willing to settle over Cyprus: they see it as a bilateral federation based on negotiated territorial adjustments and a return of some Greek refugees to their homes. There would be a high degree of autonomy in the two zones, but also a central government with just enough power to represent an independent state. In broad outline, these are the proposals Mr Ersoy intended to put forward just before his resignation in September last year, and Mr Demirel is now being advised to move along these lines through the National Security Council, Turkey's highest advisory body under the President, which brings together government and military leaders.

The military is said to be growing impatient with the Cyprus problem, which has already cost Turkey an estimated \$500m. It is concerned that Mr Demirel's position as leader of the United States arms embargo, but also because Cyprus is diverting its energies and resources from the broader context of Turkey's national defence. If Mr Demirel can secure the support of the military, he will be able to overrule Mr Erbakan, while Mr Ersoy will hardly be able to repudiate a settlement based on his own proposals. In fact there seems to be evidence that Mr Erbakan, as Mr Ersoy's deputy Premier, endorsed the proposals at the time.

It is possible that the unpredictable Mr Erbakan will choose to bring down the coalition, denouncing his partners for their sell-out on Cyprus. In that case one reasonable alternative would be a "grand coalition" of the two main parties: Mr Demirel could offer Mr Ersoy the early elections he wants, while Mr Ersoy might cooperate in a bipartisan policy to solve the Cyprus question before taking the nation to the polls, probably next May.

A "grand coalition" is seen as the ideal solution by many Turks, from the President downwards. They argue that unless external issues are dealt with at once the country's leadership will be unable to turn to the more pressing domestic problems such as the balance of payments deficit, inflation, and unemployment. They emphasize that the Cyprus problem is one of those problems that Turkey's future well-being depends, not on Cyprus.

Mario Modiano

One area of the law where the principle of sexual equality is sadly neglected

Bernard Levin

The Committee on Homosexual Offences and Prostitution (the Wolfenden Committee) reported in 1957. The law on prostitution was radically changed, generally in line with the Committee's recommendations, two years later; the recommendations being enacted in the Street Offences Act. Amendment of the law on male homosexual practices (there never had been any legal restrictions on female homosexuality) had to wait, however, for 10 years; Tory and Labour Governments alike ran away from the problem, as indeed did the House of Commons as a whole, for only when Lord Arran, with remarkable pertinacity and no little courage, forced the Lords to show the way, did the House have nerve itself to follow.

Forgive this miniature history-lesson. But the past has recently awoken, and like any Rip van Winkle, finds itself disoriented in the world in which it has returned. Eight years have now passed since the Sexual Offences Act, which legalized homosexual practices between consenting adult males in private, became law, and in those eight years it has gradually become apparent that in many respects it was bad law that it became.

To start with, for reasons even more ridiculously indefensible than those which give rise to most legal distinctions between different parts of the United Kingdom, the Act did not, and does not, apply to Northern Ireland or to Scot-

land, where the previous savage legislation is still in force. The result of this lamentable discrimination in Scotland has been so appalling that the authorities (through the Crown Office) publicly stated in February 1973 that the old law would not be applied, and Scotland would be treated *de facto* as though the 1967 Act applied there after all. A law which the Government has to say officially is so bad it will not be enforced and should be ignored must be bad indeed; yet it is worth noting that no such plenary indulgence is granted in the case of Northern Ireland, where a man can still get 14 years for doing something that in England he cannot, and in Scotland would not, even be rebuked by a policeman for.

But today I want to argue that merely bringing the law of Scotland and Northern Ireland into line with that of England and Wales is not enough, and that the 1967 Act itself, though a notable advance on the previous state of affairs, needs amendment because the eight years that have passed since its passage have shown that it is based on some fundamental fallacies, and has inevitably resulted in some grave injustices.

An attitude by society need not be enshrined, indeed should not, and often cannot, be enshrined, in law. Even if society has a right to regard homosexuals not, to be sure, as

wicked, corrupt, unnatural or shameful, but at any rate as in some important respect lacking, I do not believe society has a right to visit them with harsh and oppressive laws that do not apply to heterosexuals. Yet that is exactly what society, in the 1967 Act, does do. It is true that that measure probably represented the greatest advance possible in the state of legislative opinion (though there was even then good reason to suppose that the public, as so often, was ahead of Parliament), and that if the compromises accepted by the Bill's sponsors had been resisted, it would not have been passed. But in the eight years since it was passed, we have learned a great deal about homosexuality, about society as a whole, about public opinion, about the place of law in the field of human relations, and even about tolerance, and I think it is time that that knowledge was applied to a reform of the legislation.

Much of the new evidence (some of it, of course, is very old evidence previously ignored) is codified and vigorously presented in an excellent pamphlet called *No Offence*, by Bob Sturges, which is published jointly by the Campaign for Homosexual Equality, the Scottish Ministers' Group, and the United Kingdom's Wolfenden Committee itself also discussed most of these arguments after examining the evidence.)

Some of the arguments really need only to be stated to be seen as incontrovertible. For instance, not only is the "age of consent" for females 16, but the age of full legal adulthood for both sexes is 18; the 1967 Act is the only item of legislation on the Statute Book in which 21 is retained as the legal dividing-line, since homosexual behaviour in private is a crime if either is under that age. No serious justification for that exception is put forward today, which is not surprising, for no serious justification for it exists. Yet it remains law. Similarly, the law prescribes a minimum age for advertising for opportunities to meet one another; but there have been prosecutions of homosexuals over 21, never mind under, for doing no more than that. (The most disgraceful of these hitherto was the notorious *IT* case. But I understand that there is shortly to be an even more deplorable series of prosecutions, in which those responsible for the publication of a contact address are to be charged with a conspiracy to procure an act of buggery and "conspiracy to procure an act of gross indecency"; since neither of these is an offence within the limits of (age and privacy) of the present law, and is apparently not intended that the accused have transgressed those limits, it seems that the

law of conspiracy is now being used to round the 1967 Sexual Offences Act. I do hope that that upright and honourable figure the Attorney General, with his Claydon medal shining on his breast, conducts the prosecution himself.

The three groups which combined to publish *No Offence* have also produced a draft Bill, which though loosely drafted in places, and in others probably still going further than Parliament could be persuaded to accept, seems to me a most sensible and judicious document, which seeks to place the position under the law of heterosexual and homosexual on the same footing, and it is interesting and indeed admirable that it makes no reference to the abuse of women by men are more rigorous than those of the present law; the Bill's sponsors have not simply aimed to ease life for homosexuals, but to bring decency as well as justice into the whole range of sexual activity as the law imposes it. I hope that some MP with a good place in the next ballot for Private Members' Bills will introduce it, and if not (or if, as is most likely, the Government kills such an attempt), I hope that there is a Peer who will give the House of Lords the opportunity to show itself once again to be more humane, understanding and courageous than the Commons.

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A question of survival for President Isabel Perón

Today is the crucial date scheduled for President Isabel Perón's return to power in Argentina. She is to preside over a mass rally to celebrate "Loyalty Day", then to take up the reins of office again, after a month's absence because of illness.

There was intense speculation about whether she would come back and now that she is resuming the Presidency, she faces enormous difficulties. The powerful unions are split over support for her return on the one hand and fierce demands for her dismissal on the other. Similar debates are going on in parliamentary circles, while an attack by Montonero guerrillas on military installations, in which 50 people were killed 12 days ago, was specifically planned to coincide with the announcement of her impending return. They have now threatened to kill anyone who attends today's rally.

The interim President, Señor Italo Luder, who visited Señora Perón's holiday resort last week, is reported to have urged her not to take back her powers yet, to give the government a better chance of dealing with the deteriorating political situation—approaching civil war in some provinces—and of launching an all-out attack on the guerrillas. There is widespread surprise at Señora Perón's determination to cling to power. The Presidency has clearly caused her considerable strain, and since the enforced dismissal and exile of her right-hand man, the deeply hated Señor López Rega, she has shown little appetite for office and has clearly been at a loss in directing the government. She also suffered a humiliating defeat at the hands of the trade unions, to whom she was obliged to grant pay awards of up to 100 per cent.

As the leadership has faltered and the guerrilla threat has become more dangerous, so the military has come to the fore, and is now probably in a stronger position than at any time since 1973. This process



began earlier in the year when the government asked for military help in eliminating the guerrillas from the north of the country. Since the setting up of a special council, the army has been given carte blanche to deal with the guerrillas. Guerrilla attacks have been stepped up recently. In September alone 96 people were killed, and there is now evidence that the two guerrilla groups, the Marxist ERP and the much larger Montonero group, which claims allegiance to the late Juan Perón, are pooling their resources and information. It is becoming imperative that a political rather than a purely military solution to the guerrilla problem is sought, to avoid bloodshed on both sides (though to some hard-liners mass guerrilla deaths are a necessary sacrifice). The Montoneros are seeking "true Peronism—from which, they claim, the present Peronist movement has deviated (to the right) and degenerated. While Peronism was never a coherent ideology, at least while Juan Perón was alive, he was able by sheer force of personality to make it work and operate a system of checks and balances on the different power blocks within it. Without him, it has been disintegrating. Even the trade union movement, always considered the backbone of Peronism, is becoming divided. Some sections are being seduced away from orthodox Peronist "Justicialist" movement, by the so-called "authentic" Peronist movement, a more left-wing version clearly identifiable ideologically with the Montoneros. If even this group, traditionally the most loyal source of Peronist support, is wavering, a permanent guerrilla presence cannot be far away.

Susan Morgan

Invisible 'shopkeepers' come out of the shadows

The Crown Agents, one of them said in a 1954 broadcast, "are well known to British firms who export anything from railway engines to pedigree chickens, or from a dredger to a queen bee."

Today their fame spreads further abroad with the news that, technically at least, they are no longer invisible. Provisions against possible future losses in the secondary banking and property market in the 1974 audited accounts are put at £134m, despite last December's £55m Government grant, still leaving a deficiency on reserves of £15m.

In fact, the Crown Agents are probably a good deal better known overseas than they are by the British public, or for that matter, until very recently, the British Government. Mrs Judith Haines, Minister for Overseas Development, asked her officials why she had the power to appoint Crown Agents. Nobody seemed to know; indeed Whitehall gossip has it that until the minister asked the question, she had no one in the Civil Service who could have filled one side of a sheet of foolscap with information about this organization which operates out of a headquarters in Millbank, less than 200 yards from the House of Commons.

The Crown Agents are an enigma. In law they do not exist. The Office of the Crown Agents is not a government department, nor is it a company, yet every day, as financial, professional and commercial agents for overseas governments, public authorities and international bodies such as the United Nations the office handles enormous amounts of money. Last year they purchased goods worth £157m for their clients (three quarters of the goods being bought in the United Kingdom) and each year they manage nearly £1,000m of overseas principal's money. On a recent estimate the Crown Agents are providing services for nearly 100 overseas governments and a host of authorities from railway and trans-

The Office of the Crown Agents is not a government department, nor is it a company

port undertakings, through broadcasting boards, to central banks, universities, hospitals and research establishments. They employ nearly 2,000 people. Yet the whole operation started nearly a century ago and half ago with only two men. In the early nineteenth century London was the centre of a small group of men of varying talents, who acted as agents for the purchase and shipment of stores for a number of colonial governors. In 1833 it was decided to rationalize the system and two retired Colonial Office clerks, George Baillie and Edward Barnard, who were given rooms and the grandiloquent title of "Joint Agents General for Crown Colonies".

Between them they initially covered 13 territories: Ceylon, Mauritius, Sierra Leone, Cambodia, Trinidad, St Lucia, British Guiana, New South Wales, Van Diemen's Land, Western Australia, Cape of Good Hope, Malta and Gibraltar—and over the years added to this list such colonies as New Brunswick, Hong Kong and the Gold Coast. The experiment does not appear to have been an unqualified success and as a privately circulated history of the office has it, the two gentlemen, having served a quarter of a century in the office after their Civil Service retirement, "must have laboured latterly under the burden of years". Despite the drawbacks in-

volved in trading with such ancient and remote offices continued, with the occasional hiccup, to grow, but it carried with it a reputation for eccentricity. *The Times*, celebrating the Office's centenary in 1933, noted approvingly: "More than once the functions and the governmental relations of the office have been examined by representatives of alien ministries, who have confessed themselves equally impressed by its illogical status and its successful practice. Both, in the view of the future, the national tendency to compromise under the impulse of common sense."

The Agents have had to buy every kind of goods known to man from ropes for hanging gibbets to the most delicate "100 tons of lice" ordered by a befuddled coding clerk in one of the famine-stricken colonies. In the early years of the century schemes put up for their scrutiny included such unusual ventures as the raising over of the Dead Sea, a project it was felt inadvisable to proceed with. In the last two or three years officials at Millbank have also had a trying moment: a request from Cyprus for information on resins for a local olive supplied by the Agents in 1904; an urgent request for surgical instruments (received at 1 p.m. dispatched by air to Gibraltar at 4 p.m.), and the sale of three tons of narcotics confiscated by the Customs officers of an African port. They were almost defeated by the Nigerian request for a prestige car within three weeks. They found just the vehicle on the Daimler stand at the Motor Show.

Now that, for very understandable reasons, the Government is moving with regulatory legislation, a lot of the mystery which has surrounded the Crown Agents and their operations will disappear and it is a fair bet that, as the organization is more in the light, it will, sadly, become a bit more dull.

Malcolm Brown

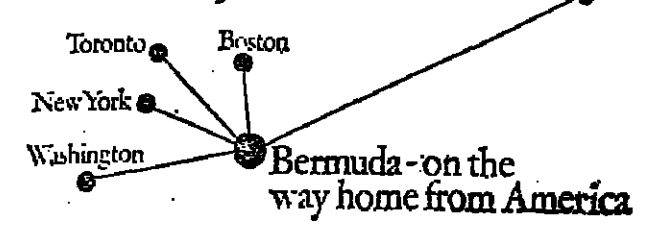
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The Times Diary

A witness of the changing Times

over from the Germans in 1944, when he returned to England. Rejoining *The Times* in 1946, he was sent to Palestine, and was in Jerusalem when the King David Hotel was blown up. Then he was correspondent in Germany, South Africa (where he was born), Singapore and the Middle East before becoming Foreign News Editor in 1953.

Caminada feels that the chance of leading a life as a correspondent is a life of adventure, and that to those entering journalism today, "it is a life of adventure, and that to those entering journalism today, it is a life of adventure, and that to those entering journalism today, it is a life of adventure."

"I think I was the only war correspondent who never wrote a story," he says. "No sooner said I in Brussels than the Germans were about to take over the country and I had to turn round and get out again." He reached Boulogne, mostly by bicycle. Trying to get away from the sea, he was captured by the Germans and taken to Berlin. Nuremberg and then Tost, now part of Poland. In September, 1942, with a Yorkshireman named Johnson, he escaped and, by jumping on and off goods trains, they reached Hungary. There they were rearrested and eventually taken to Budapest. He escaped from there, also, and went to Rumania. There he was again arrested and imprisoned until the Russians took

The first dispatch he ever sent to *The Times* gave him a valuable insight into the paper's pre-war news values. It was a long and enthusiastically researched story from Singapore about Charlie Chaplin and Pauline Goddard, who were visiting there. He received this first acknowledgement by cable: "The *Times* is not interested in the matrimonial affairs of Mr Charlie Chaplin."

Things are different now. Yesterday the matrimonial affairs of the Burtons rated 11 inches on page one and a photograph inside.

Down to earth

Percy Thrower says he never tires of sharing his gardening with anyone who cares to ask. On the train up to London yesterday to launch a long-playing record for gardeners, he was hoping to snatch 40 winks but a man in the compartment recognized him and gave him the third degree on beans. He was happy to oblige.

Thrower, who has just finished another *World Series* for BBC television, cannot understand why they only allow him on in the summer. "They think gardeners give up during the winter. But I regard autumn as the beginning rather than the end of the gardening season. What you do now determines what the garden will be like next summer." The record, which follows sales of over a million Thrower

gardening books, takes the listener month by month through the annual year. It was recorded in cut day at Thrower's home, The Macnolias, and the producers said they found it hard to stop him talking. Apart from tending to the lawn, the master's principal advice for this time of year is to get manure or peat dug into the soil.

Thrower, who is 62, retired last year as head of Shrewsbury park department, and now divides his time between television, running his nursery business, and looking after his own 12-acre plot, on which he is aided only by an elderly man who comes in twice a week to tidy up.

His fans will be disappointed that his television character, Arthur Billitt of Cuck's Farm, does not appear on the record with him. For me, the relationship between these two is the most poignant human link on television. Thrower, the bony one, often disagrees with Billitt's tips on fruit and vegetables, and is quick to say so. Moreover, he sometimes has to pull Billitt back from a tendency to drift towards lyricism.

"Wonderful thing, Mother Nature, isn't it Percy?" growled Arthur on one of their recent programmes. "Yes, Arthur," replied Thrower, doubtfully, backing away fast. Now, about these potatoes...

Dog house

The inmates of the Battersea Dogs Home should have been on their best behaviour when the day for a royal visit, Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester, was there to open the third and final phase of the kennels' rebuilding. The Hing voo's of the Junior Band of the Royal Greenjackets were accom-

panied by the howls, yowls and staccato barks of the animals within.

The chairman, Lord Cottesloe, explained that the dogs were showing their appreciation. Princess Alice, before unveiling a plaque, said she had come to add her "royal paw" to the record.

Then the Princess turned the modernized accommodation followed by the audience of constabularians, benefactors and well-wishers. Despite the general cleanliness, with well-defined dog-paths outdoors and drainage channels inside, strong dogs, small proved too strong for some of the women making the tour.

"I shall have to get outside," murmured one in a fur coat as she rushed head down, for the door. Others took the

opportunity to lay claim to smelly puts who had been in the house keeping naive that the statutory seven days. Rather sinisterly the improvements include three high-security kennels with double-fenced pens for rabies suspects. They have not been used yet, though, except for giving some of the cats from the Cat House a well-protected run.

Survival

Survival is the key word this autumn. Numerous books are being written about it, or brags the word into the title.

A book telling teachers how to teach is not content to call itself *The Craft of The Classroom*, but to add "a survival guide" a subtitle. Katharine Whitehorn's new joke book on parenthood is called *How to Survive Children*.

Most comprehensive of all is *The Survival Handbook*, which claims to tell you how to be self-sufficient. There is a section on agriculture, containing such useful maxims as: "The cow is the keystone of good husbandry. From you you can also learn how to edit newspapers, make bread and survive syphilis."

I am not clear just what the coming all-pervasive horror we shall have to know how to survive. My immediate aim is to find a way of surviving all this survival nonsense. But I suppose publishers have to survive.

Gordon Pullin of York was surprised to find this terse instruction, attached to the breakfast order form at one of the *PLEASE HANG ON YOUR DOOR KNOB*.

PHS

ENTERTAINMENTS

ALSO ON PAGE 10

When telephoning use prefix 01 only outside London Metropolitan Area

OPERA AND BALLET

AUTUMN AT SNAPE MALTINGS

SNAPE MALTINGS (Hemel Hempstead)

Peter Pears, Montserrat, Choir

Conduct: John Neschling

SNAPE MALTINGS ORCHESTRA

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THE ARTS

From Russia with love and death

David Robinson

The Romantic Englishwoman (aa) Plaza 1

Love and Death (a)

ABC 2, Shaftesbury Avenue

Overlord (aa)

Academy 2

One by One (a)

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Woody Allen with reaper

breagging of sexual prowess ("I practise a lot when I'm alone") remains.

His strengths as a comedian

are his ability to beg, borrow

and steal and yet make every-

thing seem integrally his own;

the economy that goes with his

extravagance so that, however

wild the gag, it is cut off

before it loses momentum; the

sense of seriousness which, at

least, Keaton extends to every

detail of staging. Shot in

France and Hungary, *Love and**Death*, allowing for the jokes

of anachronism, is handsome

enough for any major histor-

ical epic.

Tolstoyan

panorama of history—culminat-

ing in a bungled attempt to

assassinate Napoleon—he

embraces the epic visage at

every turn with curdled pangs

of scepticism. The habit of the

inhabitants of Russian classics

of engaging in philosophical

debate is solemnly sent up

with Romy Dumpty anach-

ronism; the holy writ is par-

aphrased in Allende's "I was

born in the valley of the

shadow of death." Tolstoy and

Dostoevsky are badly under-

mined. Allen, with his pallid,

amplified face belied in wry

red hair, his appalled eyes

staring from his dead, unconvinc-

ing face, his unconvincing

under Gibson's sinewy, sensu-

ous conducting of the score, played

less than perfectly but most

enjoyably by the Scottish Phil-

harmonia.

There was a new Desdemona

in Sylvia Sass from Hungary,

a slim beauty very touching

in her voice; her voice is dark

and mezzo-like: at one moment

in the second act I could have

sworn that she was miming to

a 45 rpm record played at 33

rpm. At her best, and there

was plenty of it, her voice is

most exciting and affecting

in the third-act duet with

Othello she remarked on her

first tears in a solo of supreme

beauty of tone and expressive

power with a top B flat slightly

curdled yet twirling in a

manner that many will have

associated with Maria Callas at

her greatest. Miss Sass could

well attain the same vocal ar-

tistry in time; some of her tones

were ugly enough to discourage

such optimism, but I never

doubted her ability to become

a great singer one day. This

was her British debut; she is

due at Covent Garden early next

year.

I could wish that Mr Gibson

would draw subtler nuance

from the orchestra in regions

between mezzo piano and

pianissimo; his fortes are

tremendous. Likewise one may

plan for Mr Glossop to develop

his splendid lingo along subtler

lines—it is so nearly top-class.

The production moves inexor-

ably and powerfully, for ex-

ample when Claudio walks with

Desdemona and Emilia

Iago lurks at the front and

Othello desultorily observes

them as he enters from the

other side.

Most of all, the concerted

finale of the third act was a

treat to hear (Scottish Opera

chorus in great form) and to

watch. Here I was standing at

the back of the third circle

where sound and vision seemed

more favourable than any-

where else in the Theatre

Royal, the stage-pictures ex-

quisitely balanced, the acous-

tics for music and words per-

fectly lucid and euphonious.

Zeus himself would not wish

to watch opera in the Glasgow

Theatre Royal from anywhere

else.

The Daniel of Terence Hillier

is quite as wholesome, beneath

his absurd rig, as the Ray

of William Delton; and on

Wednesday I never feared for

the moral danger of Geraldine

Jones's Sue. In fact, silver

platform shoes, crotch-bugging

pants and all, it was a regular

Sunday-school treat.

The extreme delicacy of his

touch, alike in cascading semi-

quavers and cantilena, fre-

quently brought descriptions

of Chopin's own playing to

mind. The slow movement had

an ethereal, dreamlike grace,

with some magical sonority in

the reprise. The finale was full

of rhythmic character, with

much neat dovetailing with

orchestra. All the way through

Mr Vátray reminded us that

Chopin was in the spring of

his life when writing the con-

certo. He deserved every clap

in his warm reception.

Since daybreak is a universal

phenomenon, it is curious how

Mussorgsky manages to make

his evocation of it in the pre-

lude to *Khovanshchina*, so

wholly and unmistakably

Russian; even if the title has

not been announced few people

have been in any other land in

imagination. Using Shostak-

ovich's edition, Mr Sanderling

phrased and shaded it most

sensitively.

In view of the concerto's in-

Ralph Izzard examines the importance of air travel and oil

First choice for flying boats and Concorde

Whichever direction you fly along the great air routes between Europe, the Far East and Australia, a stop somewhere in the Persian Gulf is still almost obligatory. Because of its natural advantages, Bahrain has been the first choice for airlines since the days of the old Imperial Airways flying-boats.

Here, aircraft are refuelled and air crews changed. To cope with wide-bodied aircraft, facilities have been developed at the point where Bahrain boats—the best equipped and most efficient airport in the Middle East.

The new terminal building, opened in December 1971, has been described as unique in that it was the first to be designed specially to deal with jumbo jets—which were then just coming into service with British Airways and Qantas. Indeed, it should be able to cope with any type of commercial aircraft which is likely to take the air up to the end of the century.

Bahrain is also by far the busiest airport in the region. In 1974, there were 217,814 incoming passengers and 254,781 outgoing, and during last year nearly eight million kilograms of freight were handled, together with about 250,000 kilograms of mail. Nineteen major international carriers use Bahrain on scheduled services and two more applications are under consideration. In addition, a number of non-scheduled carriers operate through the airport.

Bahrain also has the distinction of being selected as the inaugural destination on British Airways' routes of the Anglo-French Concorde. There are to be two London-Bahrain-London flights weekly starting on January 1 next year.

The Concorde will be given top handling priority as the Bahrain authorities realize its success depends partly on minimum turnaround time. Hitherto, wide-bodied aircraft have received priority because of the number of passengers they carry. Land-

ing to take-off time for jumbos is now about 45 minutes including loading of 336,000 lbs of fuel.

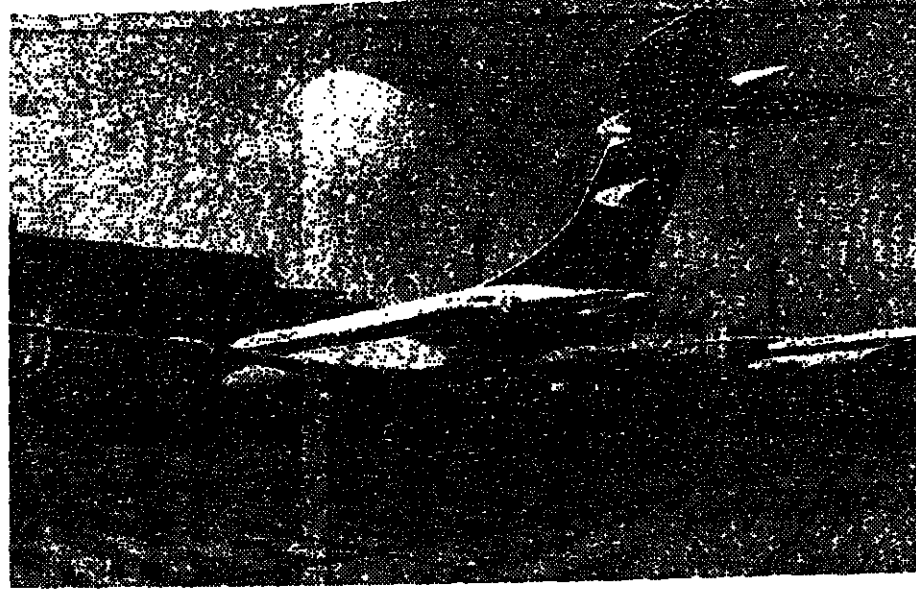
The terminal building was originally designed to handle four wide-bodied aircraft simultaneously, two through walk-on walk-off articulated air-bridges. There are, in fact, four air-bridges, it being thought that each aircraft would require two. Experience has shown, however, that for security and other reasons a single air-bridge for each aircraft is preferable.

In extensions and modifications which are taking place at the airport, the two surplus air-bridges are being realigned so that all four will be used on separate air-bridges. That will enable passengers from four of the largest aircraft to be fed straight into the building at one time, while two more similar aircraft are simultaneously serviced on the tarmac. Passengers alighting on the tarmac will be taken by escalator to customs and immigration or to the transit lounge.

Five or six wide-bodied aircraft are serviced daily, all between midnight and 6 am because of the international time factor. The terminal building is strictly functional and was designed so that it could be extended in any direction, including upwards, without interfering with the passenger flow. The present extension will add an additional 80 per cent of enclosed space.

That will enlarge accommodation in the transit lounge, which already has seating and refreshment facilities for 600 passengers. A small supermarket for duty-free goods is to be added and a mezzanine coffee shop. There is already a first-class restaurant which is a popular rendezvous for local residents.

The catering unit which supplies meals to aircraft is to have its modern facilities expanded. Because of the huge increase in traffic the unit has been pressed to the



Bahrain's modern air terminal.

point where it is supplying more than 40,000 meals weekly. It was designed for half that number.

On the technical side, the latest British Tlessey radar equipment which shows on screen the height and call-sign of any aircraft up to 200 miles away. Negotiations are taking place to rent an individual satellite channel through which to route all communications. Security methods are being reviewed and equipment ordered to screen passengers without body searches and hand baggage without it being opened.

The airfreight terminal, which is proving inadequate is also to be redesigned. It will cater for jumbo freight carriers, as well as other aircraft. There is likely to be a special container depot.

Shaikh Issa bin Abdullah al-Shaikh, the Director of Civil Aviation, is confident that Bahrain will remain the Gulf's major airport. He sees its future more as an international junction rather than merely a terminal or transit

point. It now accommodates Sudan Airways and hopes to get more African carriers. The Shaikh expects that passengers coming from the Far East and Australia will increasingly use Bahrain to change for the African routes. He hopes, too, that the social freedom and other attractions which exist there will induce passengers to extend their stop-over for two or three days and thus boost the tourist industry.

Mention should be made of Gulf Air, which has its headquarters in Bahrain. It is the region's own airline in which the governments of Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi and Oman have equal shares. It started more than 25 years ago as a "one man show" to fly spare parts to isolated oil-fields.

Gulf Air has built up a busy local network over the years and now operates four BAC 1-11 aircraft on these services backed up by Fokker Friendship. Gulf Air began large-scale airline operations in autumn, 1973, when it was decided to purchase five VC-10s and operate them on the Bombay-

Karachi to London routes with a diversion to Cairo. The airline now has 15 Golden Falcon VC-10 flights weekly from the Gulf to London.

An even more ambitious development begins next year when Gulf Air brings four TriStars into its fleet. At present it employs 120 pilots and more than 230 cabin staff. About 125 more cabin staff will be needed for the TriStars.

Captain Alan Bodger, the Group General Manager, recalls the days in 1959 when Gulf Air (then Gulf Aviation) had only six pilots, of whom he was one. The fleet consisted of two or three Herons and Doves.

Captain Bodger is now planning to extend operations to further points in Europe and the Arab world, and especially to Africa. He has also accepted an invitation from the British Aircraft Corporation to send two crews to Britain for training on Concorde. He emphasizes, however, that Gulf Air has no intention of buying Concorde in the immediate future.

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Finding security under the ground

Bahrain is too small an oil producer to qualify for Opec membership, but that organization's pricing and participation policies are used as guidelines for the Government's negotiations with the Bahrain Petroleum Company (Bapco), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Caltex.

Application of those policies over the past two years has transformed the economic situation and ended Bahrain's long and anxious search for security. The island's own fields produce 67,000 barrels of crude daily. The Caltex refinery, however, processes 250,000 barrels a day—the bulk of which is piped from Saudi Arabia—and the Bahrain Government earns six cents on each barrel. Bahrain has in addition a fifty-fifty share with Saudi Arabia in the submarine Abu Saafa field.

Bahrain now has a 60 per cent share in Bapco's crude production activities under an agreement which was ratified at the end of May but is retroactive to January 1, 1974. It superseded a previous agreement which gave Bahrain a 25 per cent participation, which has been made retroactive to January 1, 1973.

Refinery operations were excluded from both agreements, a decision taken on economic grounds. In March, the Government announced its intention to take over all the production industry, but details have yet to be worked out. The refinery will still be excluded. The agreements have had a dramatic impact on Bahrain's economy, with oil revenues more than quadrupling from 1973 to 1974, when the total figure was 109.9m dinar (about £100m).

It should be pointed out that in the year 1973-74, when crude production on the island reached a peak of more than 76,000 barrels daily (it has since been in gentle decline), total oil revenues were a mere 10.2m dinar. Going further back in history it might also be mentioned that between 1936 and 1956 just over 12m dinar were received in oil revenues.

An exciting factor for Bahrain now is the upsurge in revenue from the Abu Saafa field, which in the present year is expected to yield 50m dinar. In 1968 revenue from this source was only 2.2m dinar.

Under the present participation agreement the Government can oblige Bapco to buy back all its crude entitlement—that is 60 per cent of 67,000 barrels daily, and again sell that amount at prevailing prices. Bapco at present buys its oil piped from Saudi Arabia from Aramco at 93.94 per cent of posted prices.

Bahrain has no need to shop around in world markets for third party buyers of its "participation" oil. Unlike other Gulf states it



The Bapco refinery.

has a secure market in the refinery and it is in its own interest to see Bahrain crude processed locally.

Bahrain is turning its attention to downstream oil operations, as are most other oil producing countries, but here there is no intention to go it alone. There is a firm belief that such enterprises should be joint Arab ventures.

Thus Bahrain is one of seven Opec partners in the Arab Maritime Petroleum Tanker Company (AMPTC) established in 1973 with a paid-up capital of \$100m and authorized capital of \$500m, which has already begun to operate in instalments ending on January 1, 1977.

Bahrain is also one of eight Opec partners in the Arab Maritime Petroleum Tanker Company (AMPTC) established in 1973 with a paid-up capital of \$100m and authorized capital of \$500m, which has already begun to operate in instalments ending on January 1, 1977.

Bahrain, as it is entitled to do, has taken up only 5 per cent of its 121 per cent share, the balance being shared equally by the seven other partners.

While the island's own crude resources are dwindling, Bahrain does, however, have large reservoirs of unassociated natural gas. They were originally overestimated and proved to be on the optimistic side when more gas wells were drilled to cater for Aluminium Bahrain's smelter and the new power house and desalination plant.

From data now available reserves are more realistically estimated at between eight and 11,000,000 million cubic ft. That has caused the Government to veer away from plans for further heavy industries and to hold existing commitments as priorities, so that only 274 million cu ft are now used daily.

The major consumers are Altha (112 million cu ft daily), the refinery and the power station. Additionally, injections into the oil reservoir for pressure maintenance account for 77 million cu ft a day.

The declared aim is to spread the life of the gas over as long a time as possible. There are no plans for a gas liquefaction project and the most that can be expected is one or two small petrochemical plants.

In a foreword to Bapco's report for 1974, Mr. Wail Stola, the president, alludes to government acquisition of 60 per cent ownership of the company's gas and oil facilities. "It is our hope that the mutual understanding and cooperation existing for so long between Bapco and the Government will thereby be enhanced and that we may work together even more closely in the future," he says.

He adds that, as in the past, Bapco has continued to maintain crude oil and natural gas production at levels that will ensure the maximum ultimate recovery of underground reserves and thus provide the greatest long-term strength to Bahrain's economy.

Bapco began operations in 1932, the island having the distinction of being the first point on the Arabian side of the Gulf where oil was struck. The present concession lasts until the year 2042. Unless other strikes are made, and that is improbable, this will be rather beyond the time when the wells finally run dry. The cumulative total since the start of commercial production on the island stood at 568,234,160 barrels of crude at the end of last year.

As for refining, the 1974 report mentions a programme started to improve crude running capacity by

about 27,000 barrels a day. When completed, the project will provide operating flexibility to take advantage of any improvement in refined product demand.

In autumn 1973 a \$50m low sulphur fuel oil project was commissioned at the refinery—its largest project yet—which is capable of processing 50,000 barrels daily, removing all but a 1 per cent maximum level of sulphur, which is of special attraction to the Japanese market.

It had been planned to follow the commissioning years.

immediately with a refinery expansion programme which would have cost well over \$100m. Plans were, however, put in abeyance because of the general uncertainties about the world oil industry.

The decision caused some concern to the Government at the time as a steep rise in unemployment was feared. The fears have been allayed since work commenced on the dry dock project, which is likely to cause a labour shortage on the island for at least five years.

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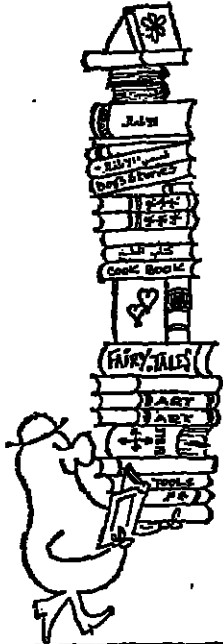


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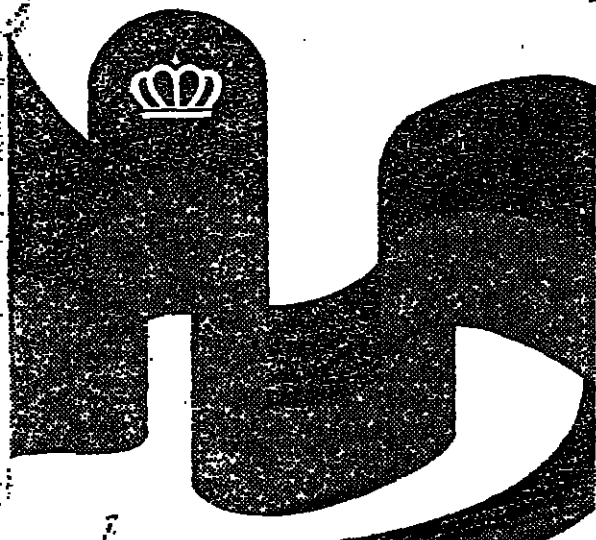
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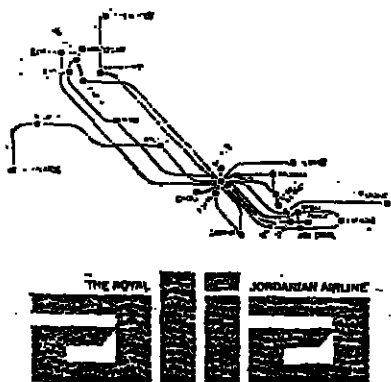
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BAHRAIN

This Special Report examines the island today and its future as the Gulf region's communications centre

Wise rule and an enviable stability

by Ralph Izzard

Bahrain owes its character to its physical features. The top third of the island is arid and irrigated by springs, whose water is borne from Saudi Arabia along natural underground channels. The north-east corner of the island curves round to form sheltered anchorages. That combination is found nowhere else in the Gulf, and explains why, through thousands of years, the island has been favoured as the obvious entrepot of the region.

In modern times, Bahrain has enjoyed wise rule and stable administration. A long ramp ahead of its neighbours, more than 50 years ago, Bahrain introduced free medical services and free education. Today its cabinet ministers and the directors of their departments have an impressive cadre of bright young civil servants to support them.

An enviable stability exists in the country and life is congenial: factors which induced increasing numbers of foreign businessmen to set up regional headquarters here. The island, with a population at the last census of 220,000, has 15 banks. Bahrain has the busiest and most efficient airport in the Gulf and its telecommunications are unrivalled.

Oil was struck in 1932, but even before it had been ascertained, necessitating the most meticulous planning over the years. Now, with the quadrupling of the oil prices on world markets and the financial benefits accruing from government participation in the industry, the picture has entirely changed. The budget for this year stands at a handsome 134m dinars, of which oil revenues will contribute 111m. In 1968, the budget stood at 4m dinars and that included a million drawn from reserves.

Jubilant over this year's figure is tempered by the rise in prices of construction and other raw materials. But planners who have carried the island through so many

lean years have won breathing space in which to sit back and think out their next moves.

There are to be no more heavily ventures in heavy industry. It is felt that the island already has as much of such industry as it can absorb, including the \$200m Dapec drydock project, for which dredging and reclamation work is far advanced; the Bapco refinery and the aluminium smelter in which the Government, by buying shares at market price, now has a 52 per cent holding.

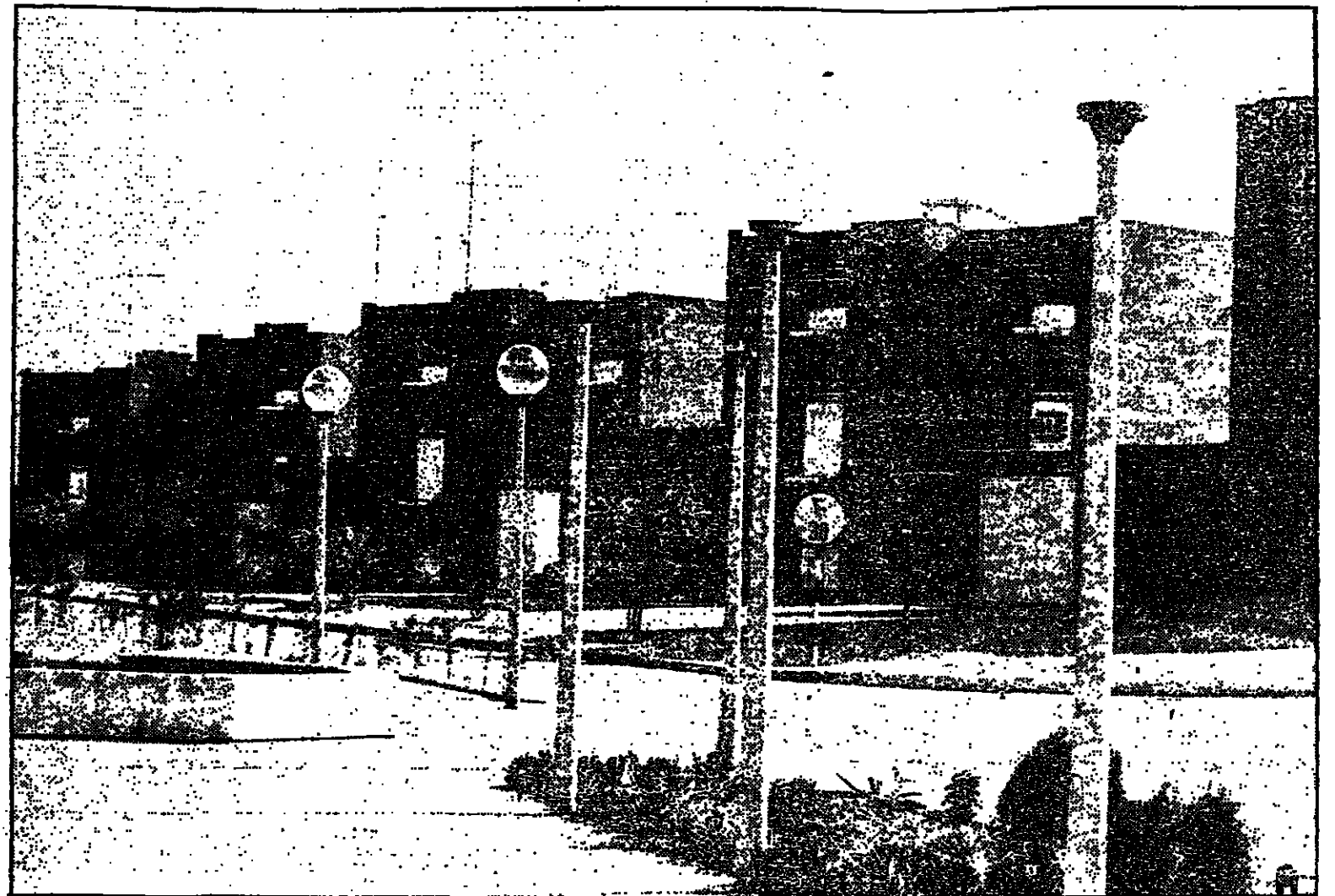
Light industries are still to be encouraged. Alha will soon have two satellite industries, the existing aluminium atomizing plant and a 55m aluminium extrusion plant for which permission has just been given.

Today, almost the whole attention of the Ministry of Development is being turned to civil engineering projects to consolidate and improve living standards and enhance the quality of life for the inhabitants.

That entails an immense amount of rebuilding, re-arranging and even the reshaping of the island; large areas of land are being reclaimed from the shallow offshore shelf, notably around the commercial centre of Manama, the capital.

Bahrain's port, Mina Sulman, which was opened with six berths in 1961 and which last year handled about 170m tons of imports, is to have a further six berths added. The first two existing berths are expected to be ready in 1977. The port developments, which include more transit sheds, storage compounds, more efficient handling facilities and channel widening, is scheduled for completion in 1979.

It is likely to be the last summer that Bahrainis will endure planned, area-selective power cuts. The new 120MW power station is nearing completion and two of the four turbines will be in commission by the end of this year with the remaining two following next year.



Face of experience and the modern face of Bahrain: Isa New Town.

Coupled with the power house is a desalination plant which will be producing five million gallons of sweet water daily by the end of December. The plant will have a capacity of 20 million gallons daily by 1982. Desalinated water will be fed into the present spring water system, ensuring an abundant water supply for the foreseeable future.

Plans are going forward for a third and far larger power station to produce 300 MW. It is likely to be in operation in the early 1980s. In a new housing programme, 1,000 limited-income and medium-income group homes are to be built yearly, starting with a crash programme for 700 houses in the first year. Materials are

being assembled this year for a comprehensive sewerage system on which work will begin next spring. The network will extend to all towns and major villages. About 16,000 houses are to be connected by 1978 and the scheme completed by 1980.

Sewage water will be treated and is expected to yield 10 to 12 million gallons daily for agriculture and also for horticultural purposes as part of a "Keep Bahrain Green" campaign.

Education remains one of the top priorities and 60 of the oldest schools are to be demolished and rebuilt. One of the last actions of the late King Faisal, of Saudi Arabia, was to allocate funds for the building and equipping of a junior technical college to

provide training for 1,500 students. That supplements the senior Gulf Technical College, a joint venture in education, by Bahrain, Abu Dhabi and the United Kingdom, which this year is taking on an additional 300 students, bringing its total to 1,100.

The Government has also opened special training schools for drydock workmen, for the hotel and catering trade and for electricity department trainees.

Plans are to be announced soon for a 6m dinar cultural centre which, it is hoped, will become a landmark for the region. It will include a 1,000-seat theatre for concerts, plays and ballet with a stage large enough to accommodate world-class

orchestras and theatre groups. There will also be a 400-seat theatre, an exhibition hall, a restaurant and arts and music libraries.

Six of the world's leading architects have been invited to compete to produce the best design for the centre and the panel of judges will include experts of high international reputation.

Tourism has been held up by shortage of hotel space, but in the present hotel building programme 1,000 extra rooms are expected to be available next year and a further 1,000 in 1977. Tourism policy, which is now resolved, will emphasise archaeology on the one hand and sea sports on the other. The Government plans to build two or three marinas

and motel "colonies" along the coast line.

Recreational facilities for the local population are to be improved and there are also to be secluded quiet areas among the shoreside palm groves where the overstressed can unwind and relax.

In one of the most ambitious developments, a Saudi-Danish firm of consultants has been engaged to prepare a feasibility study for a 24-mile causeway linking the island with the Saudi-Arabian mainland. A preliminary study has started on the required engineering, the best route, the type of construction materials needed and the number of bridges to be built. The complete report is expected to be ready by the end of next

year, enabling work to begin early in 1977.

The causeway is likely to take four to five years to build. When completed it will bring enormous benefits in that Bahrain will be joined to the trans-Arabian highway network which, in its turn, leads through Turkey and connects with the European system.

As Government House is too congested for comfort, each of the major ministries it contains is to have a separate building constructed for it. There are also to be a new and much larger main post office, new law courts and a modern prison.

The commercial centre of Manama is to be rearranged and the present market moved to reclaimed land to

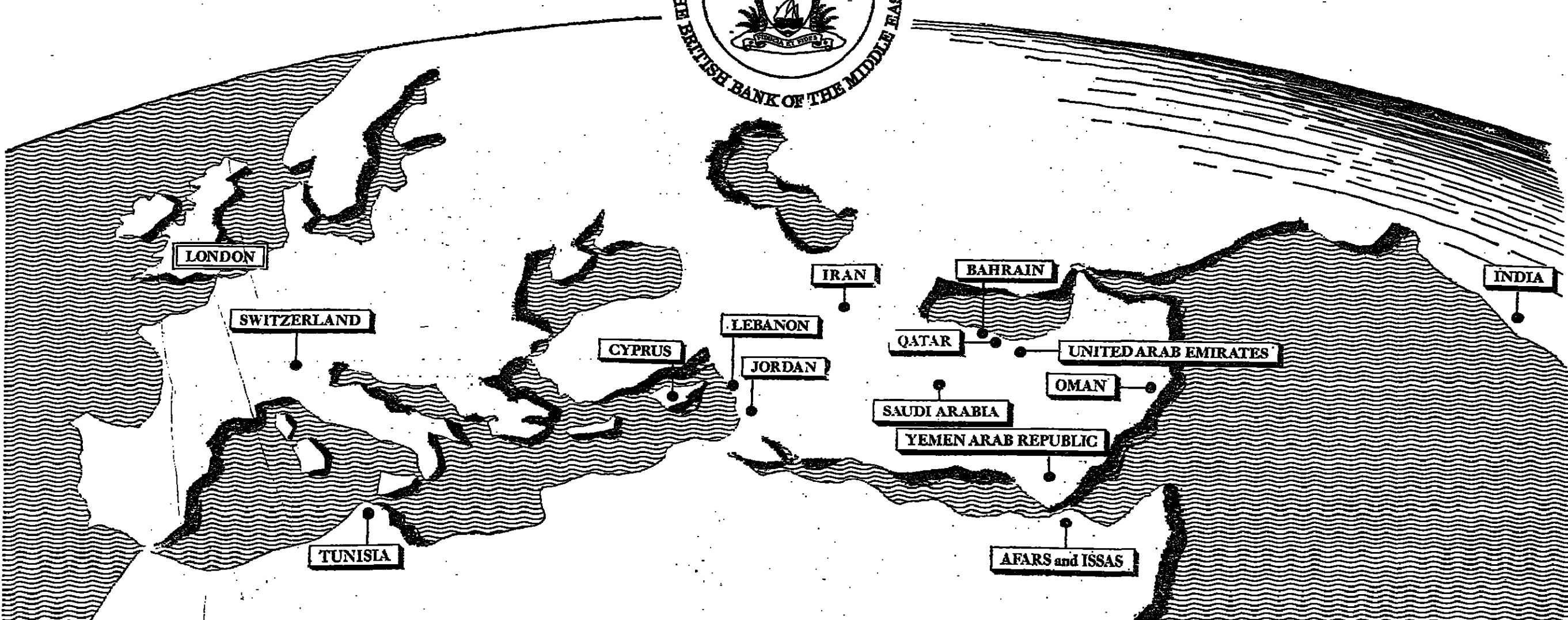
the west of the city. As part of the plan, the present shov jetty, with its own customs and storage sheds, will be moved to the west to enable fresh fish, meat, fruit and vegetables to be unloaded straight on to the market stalls.

The Ministry of Development is turning its attention to the mounting traffic congestion—there are more than 26,000 registered motor vehicles for the few dozen miles of first-class highway.

The same Saudi-Danish consultants firm which is working on the causeway has also been engaged to plot a new road network with easy approaches to the causeway as the main consideration.

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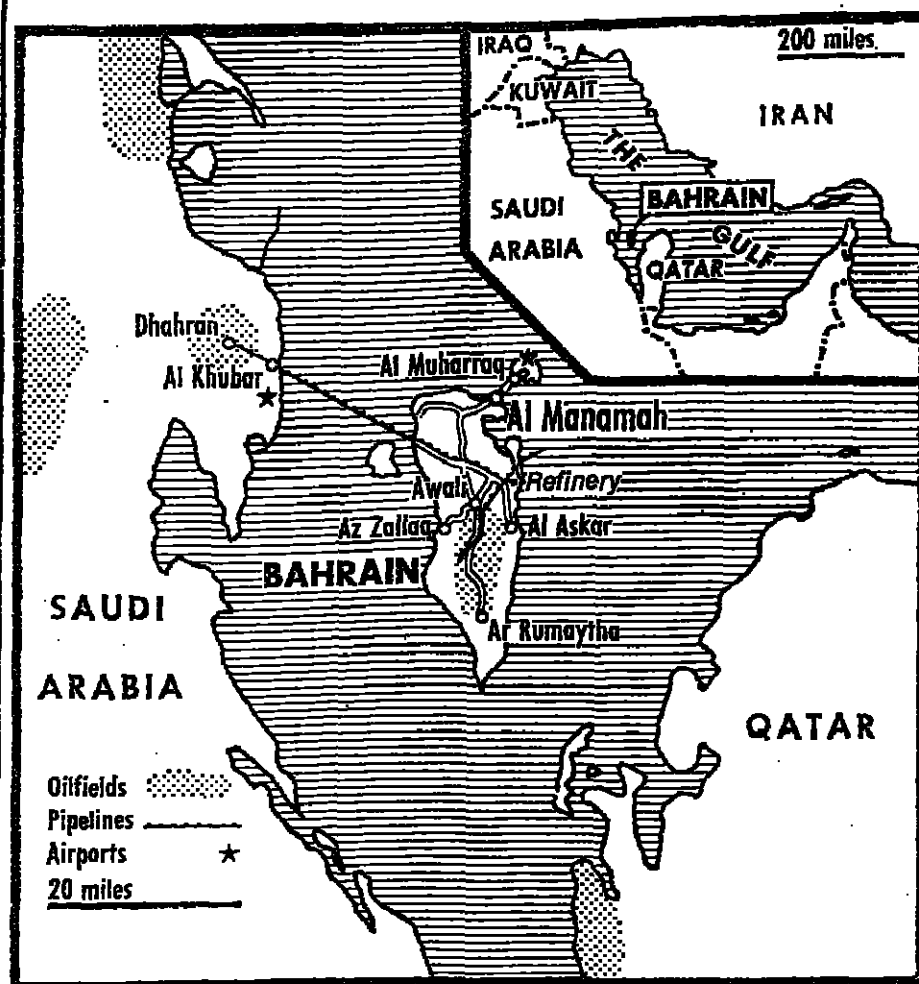
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Ironie progress of dry dock as tanker trade drops

by Peter Hill

Some of the world's richest and most powerful men, the owners and operators of the fleet of oil tankers which ship oil from the Middle East to the principal developed countries of the world are experiencing a sort of recession they have never before encountered.

The oil companies and the tanker owners ordered vast quantities of tonnage from the world's shipyards over an 18-month period through 1973 into 1974, which only declined because the shipbuilding industry was unable to build all the tankers the oil industry wanted. Then, in autumn 1973, with freight rates at very high levels throughout the world, the tanker owners felt the first effects of the Arab oil embargo and the Middle East war.

Today the talk is no longer of increasing the size of the tankers to 500,000 or 700,000 tons or beyond. It is of cancellations, of bankruptcy, of serious excess capacity and the consequent difficulties for the shipping and shipbuilding industries. It is ironic therefore that while the world's tanker fleets are filled with gloom and depression, the seven members of the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) should be pressing ahead with one of the biggest dry dock projects in the world.

The Arab Shipbuilding and Repair Yard Company, with an authorized share capital of \$100m (about £40m) held its first directors' meeting at the beginning of January. That was just a month after the foundation stone had been laid to mark the realization of Arab dreams to locate a large ship repair yard and drydock off Muharraq Island, Bahrain, a site which its promoters believe to be the most suitable in the Arab world.

Construction work on the dock will start in the next few weeks and is being undertaken by the South Korean company, Hyundai Construction. The company will be using Korean rather than local labour and its employees will be working a 50-hour week.

The development of the project has been far from smooth and many difficulties are still to be resolved before the yard receives its first ship, now scheduled for 1977. The problems which have beset the project were heightened by the decision of Dubai to go ahead independently with an even more ambitious drydock scheme, which has

since been modified considerably.

The British shipbuilding and engineering group of Vickers was to have been a participant in the Bahrain project, taking a 20 per cent share in the venture and at the same time operating the dock on a management contract. But the company fell foul of an Arab boycott after its acceptance of an order from Israel for three small submarines. There was intense competition from other principal shipbuilding companies to take over the vacancy created and eventually the Portuguese Lisnave company and the Japanese Kawasaki Group were appointed to carry through the feasibility studies and eventually manage the dock.

But Kawasaki has since pulled out, leaving Lisnave with the sole management agreement, which could lead to further difficulties for the venture. Some of the senior management at the Portuguese yard who were involved in the work at Bahrain, are no longer with Lisnave after the political upheavals in Portugal earlier this year.

Estimated costs almost doubled

Work is going ahead on the project, however, although the estimated costs have almost doubled from the original estimate to about \$186m. The cost is being borne by Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iraq, Qatar, Libya and the United Arab Emirates, although most of the funds are expected to come from Saudi Arabia and from Kuwait.

On the basis of plans drawn up by British consultants Sir Alexander Gibb and Partners and the Portuguese company, Profabril, the Bahrain project will have three, and possibly four, repair berths with the central feature being a dry dock about 360 metres long and 60 metres wide able to accommodate ships of up to 375,000 tons. Plans exist for further expansion to accommodate vessels of up to 500,000 tons but such expansion does not look as though it will be necessary.

Both the Bahrain and the Dubai projects are expected to be commercially viable operations, if they can acquire a reputation for good quality workmanship, since an estimated 95 per cent of the world fleet of very large crude carriers (VLCC) trade in and out of the Gulf.

The size of the world VLCC fleet, however, is not going to be as large as was

expected two years ago. But the Bahrain venture, even with the Suez Canal reopened, is ideally sited for drydocking VLCCs at the end of their ballast trip from Europe with their tanks gas-free.

The Opec venture, too, has the added advantage that it does not have to rely on securing work from the oil companies and tanker owners. Clearly it will be the chosen dock, wherever possible for the repair and survey work required for Opec's tanker fleet managed by the Arab Maritime Petroleum Transport Company. The company already has a number of tankers on order and in service and in 10 years is likely to be operating a fleet of between 50 and 60 vessels which will provide the Bahrain dock with a steady workload.

Already the drydock company has an aggressive marketing operation based in London which is seeking to sign up customers for its five-year maintenance agreement service. The agreement will enable an owner to drydock his vessel at either Lisnave or Bahrain, providing that he books two months in advance.

To use the service, the tanker owner will be required to sign a five-year agreement which will provide, on a fixed-price basis, regular docking facilities and a supply of seagoing maintenance crews, together with an undertaking to provide up to 25,000 working hours during the agreement period.

It is estimated that the dry dock complex will provide employment for about 40,000 workers, many of whom will be brought in from other industries, with Palastina a frequent mentioned source of manpower.

The work to be undertaken in the early years, at least, will be simple maintenance, largely removing bottom fouling from tanker hulls, with some limited repair work, although the intention is to eventually extend the service to repairs and maintenance of engines and machinery. Because the high temperatures in the Gulf are not conducive to that type of work, the yard is likely to suspend activities during three months of the year.

Lisnave will take its work in that period. The project is not likely to be profit-making for several years. It will be interesting to see how successful the Gulf ventures at Palastina and Bahrain will be, particularly in view of Iranian plans to establish a similar facility at Bandar Abbas. There is already talk of surplus capacity in the Gulf.

Other industries will supersede oil

by Ann Fyfe

It has been a subject of conversation for some years now that Bahrain's oil is running out. The one offshore field (the oldest in production since 1932 and its output has declined from 70,000 barrels a day in 1972 to just over 67,000 in 1974). Despite a new bout of exploration and a decision to survey again the island seismographically, oil industry sources concede that Bahrain has been explored exhaustively and that no major new find is forecast.

Of necessity, other industries have been developed to play a much larger role in the Bahrain economy than is the case in the other Gulf states which rely solely on their younger oil fields, and Bahrain has two blessings as far as natural resources are concerned: the enormous Khuff field of non-associated gas and the three generations of educated Bahrainis turned out by more than 50 years of modern education.

The imperative need to employ these Bahrainis has itself been one of the main forces behind the drive to diversify, a situation the reverse of that prevailing in the rest of the Gulf, where industrialization programmes are held seriously in check by the almost total lack of local managers and technicians.

About 112 million cubic feet of Khuff gas is required daily to fuel the Bahrain Aluminium 120,000 tons a year smelter, the first non-oil-based industrial venture in the Gulf, which started operating in 1971. Supplies of gas and alumina, the plant's main raw materials, are secured by 20-year contracts with the supplier and the plant's output belongs to the partners in Alba in proportion to their shareholding. The Bahrain Government holds 40.4 per cent, British Metals International 17 per cent, Kaiser Aluminium Bahrain 17 per cent, Electropaper 12 per cent, Western Metals Corporation 8.5 per cent, and Breton Investments 5.1 per cent.

Alba has no marketing difficulties, but the market price of aluminium is notoriously volatile and is said by informed sources to be running at only a few cents ahead of average production costs a tonne.

Demand is acknowledged to be slack for the output of Alba's first offshoot in the Gulf, namely Bahrain Aluminium International, a consortium of the Bahrain Government and European interests, which uses 3,000 tonnes a year of aluminium from Alba in the production of anti-corrosive marine paints and explosives. Within the next couple of months, however, work is to start at the extrusion plant which will manufacture aluminium sections and profiles (for window frames, doors, and so on) for a guaranteed market in the Gulf's booming construction sectors.

The venture, which will be owned by the Government and Bahrainis in the private sector, will employ between 150 and 200 people. The establishment of an aluminium rolling mill was once studied, but the present state of the market is too slack to guarantee the large sales required to make such a venture viable. Conditions in the market will change if the recession in the developed countries really has "bottomed out".

After oil, aluminium and the civil service, Bahrain's fourth largest employer with between 150 and 200 people, is the Organization of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) now in the early stages of construction on a coral reef off Muharraq Island. Originally it was estimated that the dry dock would cost about £40m; a year ago that was doubled, and that figure is now widely felt to be out of date.

Work created for 1,500

Various delays beset the project at the beginning, notably disputes over the dry dock lower down the Gulf, which is ahead of Bahrain's in schedule, and the participation before the Portuguese revolution of the unpopular Lisnave group. The latter difficulty disappeared with the events in Portugal, but rivalry from Dubai prompted Opec to work out a five-year fixed-price package to offer to the shipowners.

It remains to be seen whether that will be successful. Dredging began at the site in August, 1974, and the Muharraq Technical Training Centre has already started recruiting Bahrainis for training mainly as welders and machinists. The dry dock will create about 1,500 to 2,000 jobs directly. One

of its side-effects, however, is to be a factory to produce welding electrodes locally, plans for which are advanced.

Local production of oxygen and acetylene, again for welding, is also to be increased to supply the dry dock, and plans for a steel sheet rolling mill have been mooted. The last, however, is a highly capital-intensive project and will be obviated if Qatar goes ahead with its plans for a similar plant. Duplication, which the rest of the Gulf is assuming it can afford, is out of the question for Bahrain.

In the private sector, a range of smaller-scale industries already exists, including a 100-ton-a-day flour mill, the Bahrain Fishing Company, a paper-processing plant, a plastic pipes factory and an air-conditioner assembly plant. To that list will be added in the near future a nail factory, a matches factory and a foam rubber production unit for mattresses and furniture. The four categories are expected to develop, construction, minor household goods and furniture represent the main lines along which private enterprise in Bahrain can be expected to develop, their markets being assured in the Gulf area.

If the planned causeway to Saudi Arabia is built, and a firm of Danish consultants was appointed earlier this year to study the project - then the biggest customer for Bahrain's existing exports and re-exports will be transformed into a bottomless market for these types of product. The causeway would also create a demand in Bahrain for leisure and recreational facilities for rich Saudis.

Most existing industries are concentrated in the industrial area around Port Sulman, where, in the zone, they enjoy exemption from import duties on raw materials and most capital goods. The eight million sq ft of the zone is now leased, or reserved, however, at less than commercial rents, with the result that a second industrial zone of 14,500,000 sq ft has been designed.

Electricity supplies, which have more or less kept pace with increases in demand of 25 per cent in 1973 and 1974 and more than 40 per cent so far this year, will be rescued from inadequacy by a steam-turbine power station at Sitra. It is being

built with the financial aid of Kuwait and Abu Dhabi and will have a total installed capacity of 120MW when complete in 1977. The existing gas-turbine station at Juffair is having its capacity increased by almost 50 per cent and a new station is planned for the 1980s.

Bahrain's crucial industrial advantage is its reserve of trained manpower. Of the 55,000 students at school in the academic year 1973-74, about 17 per cent of the girls and 14 per cent of the boys were at the various secondary institutions which embrace commercial, technical and religious education and teacher training. A total of 357 students in higher education, almost entirely in Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Lebanon and Jordan, are supported by the Ministry of Education. In addition to others studying abroad or those of the Technical College has Bahrainis specializing in technical and commercial subjects.

Strikes are not legal

Bahraini labour is more organized than elsewhere in the Gulf. Trade unions and strikes are not legal but a labour law legislated there was before the National Assembly before that institution was suddenly suspended in August; many Bahrainis believe that both unions and strikes would have been sanctioned before the end of the year.

The fact that strikes are not legal has not prevented them from happening; however, the biggest employers have already seen fit to develop management-worker communications by means of discussion groups and consultative machinery.

Bahrain is not, then, in a position to sit back and rely on the oil field to keep the wheels of the economy turning. Industrial diversification is not something to which it can simply pay lip service if the present standard of living is to be maintained or improved after the end of the crisis in industry and if the mass of educated Bahrainis are to be employed. The record indicates that the difficulties have been identified and that firm plans are being laid to meet them.

To mark the occasion of the visit of President Sadat to Britain The Times is planning to publish a Special Report on EGYPT

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Challenge to status as satellite link

by Richard Milton

has established a lead in inter-communications in the Gulf area: it was the first to install an automatic system in 1943 and a satellite earth station in 1969. The island's telecommunications, taken at a crucial time when the development of a time when the Gulf area was in the world, and when many national companies were in decision on where their Gulf head-

next month, how the neighbouring Arab Emirates will own each station of an understandable wish, while Qatar has been under discussion in the Gulf area, and when many national companies were in decision on where their Gulf head-

could be because the profits are less than expected. The opening of satellite terminals in neighbouring countries will mean inevitably that the percentage of transit traffic handled in Bahrain will decrease. But the signs are that, overall demand will remain high. It is planned to invest some £20m over the next five years in developing the international side of the system.

The island's first automatic telephone system was installed in 1949. Exchange equipment is generally reckoned to have a working life of about 20 years, so by the late 1960s and early 1970s the system was coming up for renewal. The need for re-equipping, coupled with an increase in demand for telephones way above the forecasts of 20 years earlier, meant that the network had to be considerably expanded.

A new central exchange in Manama was brought into service in mid-1973, replacing two old exchanges, and it was planned that this would take care of demand into the 1990s. But already increasing demand from both private and business subscribers means that the building has to be extended and further 4,000 lines installed.

During the next five years, some £13.7m is to be spent upgrading the island's telephone network. Isa Town, at present, served by a Japanese mobile exchange, will get a new building and a full-scale 2,000-line exchange, while a total of 1,400 lines will be installed at Rifa'a and another 400 in Muharraq. Exchanges at Jufair and Ghudabiya will be phased into the new Manama central exchange and this will unify telephone numbers in a five-digit scheme. Altogether, the capacity of the network is to be more than doubled over the next five years.

The rate of growth of telephones, fuelled chiefly by increasing affluence of the population and rapidly expanding business interests, has been astonishing. In

1970 some 7,000 new lines were connected, representing a growth of 600 over the previous year. It is conservatively estimated that by the end of this year more than 14,500 lines will have been installed, representing a doubling of the growth rate.

The penetration of telephones per capita is also growing rapidly. At present it is almost 11 telephones per 100 of population and this compares favourably with a country like Portugal (about 10 telephones per 100) or the United Kingdom's 34 telephones per 100.

The Bahrain subscriber receives a service which would evoke howls of anguish from hard-pressed United Kingdom telephone users. Rental is £25 a year, connection charge is £5 (unchanged since 1949) and local calls are charged at 1p for unlimited duration. There have been no tariff increases since 1956. Telephones can still be installed at short order, although the unprecedented demand is giving rise to a growing waiting list.

Complaining about one's national telephone network is a popular pastime the world over, and Bahrainis point with envy to Kuwait, where the telephone network is subsidised almost entirely by the state and is provided as a public service.

Full subscriber trunk dialling facilities are in operation within Bahrain and to neighbouring Qatar. STD is to be extended progressively to the rest of the Gulf by 1976 and to major overseas centres by 1977. One obstacle to the introduction of STD services, however, is that the kind of "bulk" bill provided in this country by the Post Office to telephone subscribers is not acceptable to most overseas countries, where subscribers demand itemised accounts detailing each call, while the metering of subscribers calls in this way is technically difficult and prohibitively expensive for a fairly small network.



Bahrain's satellite earth station.

Bahrain telephone and telex traffic growth (in minutes)

	Telephone	Telex
1967-68	287,885	84,767
1968-69	320,544	111,336
1969-70	469,306	141,275
1970-71	755,932	244,196
1971-72	1,215,132	426,483
1972-73	1,621,959	544,036
1973-74	2,349,404	750,470
1974-75 (estimate)	3,190,239	1,079,623
1975-76*	5,014,900	1,771,800
1976-77*	9,468,100	2,489,400
1977-78*	13,557,200	3,441,500
1978-79*	19,742,600	4,702,900
1979-80*	25,273,900	6,138,000
1980-81*	31,828,500	7,939,600
1981-82*	40,956,400	10,198,400
1982-83*	49,876,400	12,772,900
1983-84*	60,763,900	15,998,600
1984-85*	74,058,500	20,040,500
1985-86*	90,299,700	25,105,400

* Projection

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Small island with big Gulf role

by Henry Stanhope

about the same size as the Isle of Wight, but better known, attracted attention of western world long before the discovery of oil there in 1932. After a long history as an independent trading centre, it is the ancient and medieval world, all its world, it fell under Portuguese rule in the sixteenth century, and then under

Iranian domination for most of the next 200 years—a period which has been used ever since by the Iranians to fortify a claim to Bahrain itself and the three surrounding islands. A more significant influence, however, was that exerted by Britain, which, sensitive to the value of Bahrain as a staging post on the route to India, gradually extended its power in the Gulf throughout the nineteenth century.

British policy was, and indirectly still is, to preserve the independence of Gulf states like Bahrain in the face of more predatory powers. Covetous glances which were being cast at the Gulf sheikhdoms by Iran, Saudi Arabia, and the old Ottoman Empire led in 1853 to the Perpetual Treaty of Peace under which Britain promised naval protection against external aggression. Then in 1861 the British Government went further by formally recognising the independence of the Sheikh of Bahrain and promised once more to help him to uphold this—in return for the Sheikh's undertaking to abstain from piracy and trouble-making in general.

But the claims from Bahrain's neighbours continued and led to still closer British ties under a series of agreements with Bahrain in 1892 (and with other Trucial states too). Now Bahrain came under the full mantle of British protection—a protection which proved its value on several occasions which required either diplomatic or more forceful intervention.

The relationship developed during the twentieth century, encouraged by the increasing importance of oil in the Gulf and the development of the region as a force in world politics. Then on August 15, 1971, the ancient sheikhdom entered a new era in its history when it became a completely independent state once again and the old treaty under which Britain managed its defence and foreign policy was replaced by a new treaty of friendship.

At the end of that year the British forces, the outward manifestation of British protection—though by that time a residual legacy of the force which was once maintained there—were withdrawn altogether, another step in the gradual contraction of British interests east of Suez.

As Britain moved out, however, the United States moved in. The United States Navy negotiated a lease with the Bahrain Government which allowed it to take over some of the buildings vacated by the departing British and a small American naval staff moved in during the early part of 1972 to establish the Middle East Force.

It has been a "force" in name rather than in fact, with no more than a depot ship, the *Lasalle*, which is based on Bahrain, and two destroyers which rotate on duty from the United States. An American naval presence there was not a new factor, but heretofore, in the absence of the British, the number of personnel was to be increased from 200 to 260. It remained a token commitment to the region but as such signified the importance which the Pentagon attached to the position of Bahrain, on the oil routes.

The American presence has appeared insecure however since the 1973 Middle East War when the Bahrain Government, offended by American support for Israel, asked that the presence should go. During subsequent negotiations the United States Government agreed to increase the annual rental for the Bahrain facility from about £300,000 to about £2m.

But Bahrain has more recently renewed its original demand—for internal political reasons as well—for reasons of local antipathy to the idea of great power involvement in the region. The agreement signed secretly at the end of 1971 allowed for either party to abrogate it, and although both governments have begun a process of consultation, observers in Washington expect that the Americans will leave at the date requested by Bahrain, June 30, 1977.

Bahrain's own armed forces are what one might expect of a fairly rich island inhabited by only 250,000 people. Its total number of servicemen is 1,100. The land element consists of an infantry battalion and an armoured squadron, together equipped with eight Saladin armoured cars, eight Ferrar scout cars, six 120mm recoilless rifles and six 81mm mortars. Its "sea power" consists only of two police launches and its "air defence" of two Scout helicopters. All figures are those published by the International Institute for Strategic Studies in *The Military Balance 1975-76*.

Meanwhile the world scene, and particularly the Gulf scene, is in a state of continuous evolution. Already the balance of power in the Gulf itself is very different from that of 1971. Now it is Iran, spending for the first time more than Britain on defence, which is the dominant power—a reminder perhaps that the integrity of Bahrain depends to some extent upon a friendly relationship with Tehran, which it enjoys.

Bahrain's importance in the Persian Gulf is almost disproportionate to its own share of Middle East oil reserves. It always has been so but is now more so than ever. Its importance as a port and communications centre has grown in parallel with the power of the world's great oil-producing region and has been additionally enhanced by judicious development.

The deepwater port at Mina al Salman which has now been operating for 13 years has six large berths to accommodate the larger tankers. Ship repair facilities, new roads and telecommunications links have all been improved during the same period. The tiny island state is in a stronger position than ever to play a tributary role in the affairs of the Gulf, and hence the western and Middle East world.

The author is Defence Correspondent, *The Times*.

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Records speak of busy trading in primeval Paradise-land

by Michael Rice

There is an agreeable historical symmetry in the development of Bahrain as one of the principal trading centres of the Arabian Gulf, a position which it has been steadily consolidating over the past two decades.

But it is more than 4,000 years since Bahrain first became an entrepôt of world trade, when, for more than 1,000 years, it was the pivot of the wide-ranging commercial activities of the Sumerians, the extraordinarily creative and commercially motivated people who were the dominant cultural group in southern Mesopotamia in the third millennium BC.

Then Bahrain lay midway between the Sumerian cities, whose citizens' only natural asset was their inventive genius for their land was almost wholly bereft of raw materials, and the outer lands which were both the source of Sumer's metals, stone, wood and all the other materials they required and the markets to which Sumerian manufactured goods were exported.

Sumer's, and hence Bahrain's, trade extended from western Turkey to the cities of the Indus Valley, taking in Arabia on the way. Raw materials too were traded over formidable distances: copper, perhaps the staple of the Bahrain trade from Oman and lapis lazuli from Badakhshan in the far north of Afghanistan are but two examples.

The first serious study of ancient Bahrain was published in 1881, a report by Captain Durand, a British officer in the service of the Government of India, who excavated there in 1878-9. He was particularly drawn to one of the most striking of Bahrain's ancient remains, the extensive grave mound fields which ripple across the northern deserts in unbroken waves and which had attracted the notice of historians even in Roman times.

One crucial discovery he made during his only expedition to Bahrain was an inscribed stone (since his day sadly lost) which, translated by the remarkable scholar Henry Rawlinson, first pointed to Bahrain's ancient and quite unexpected importance. The inscription, written in Old Babylonian cuneiform and dating to the first century of the second millennium, referred to one of Sumer's many sons, Inzak, the son of Enki, Lord of the Abyss and one of the greatest divinities in Sumer's pantheon. Rawlinson was an archaeologist of great perception and of a persistence which earlier in his career had led him to hang suspended over a cliff face in Persia with a clear 300ft drop below him, copying inscriptions day after day for months on end.

Durand's inscription provided him with a clue: Inzak was the guardian divinity of Dilmun, a land of mystery and enchantment in the ancient records and also a great mercantile centre whose high-loaded ships plied up the Gulf to the cities of Sumer. Rawlinson concluded that Bahrain must have been Dilmun, an insight which later archaeology has sustained to the broad agreement of most scholars.

After Durand's time sporadic investigations of the island's sites were undertaken in a series of small expeditions. The grave mounds still attracted most attention, giving rise to the belief that Bahrain was a sepulchral island, a Sumerian (or, it was sometimes thought, a Phoenician) Isle of the Dead. The reality was more extraordinary still.

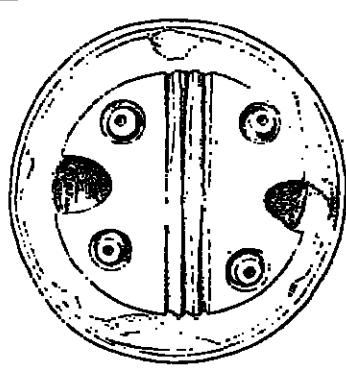
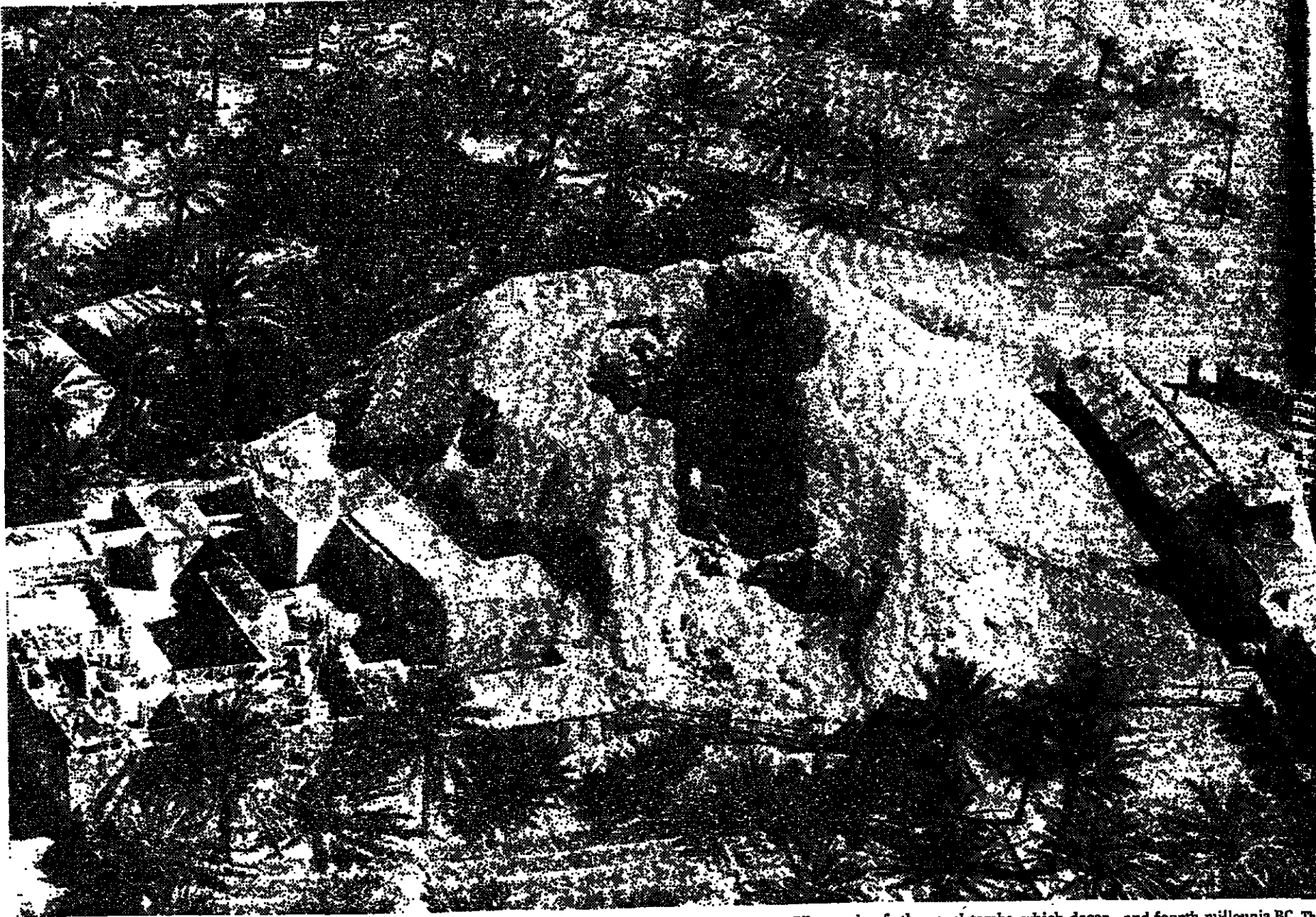
The Sumerian records, inscribed in the spiky, elegant cuneiform characters cut in tablets of clay spoke of Dilmun puzzlingly, as both a busy and extensive trading city and as the primeval Paradise-land, the place of creation, the home of the gods, the Land of the Rising Sun.

To the people of Sumer the sea which lapped the shores of the southern extremity of the land was always faintly mysterious, though they believed that they themselves were immigrants to Sumer, coming by way of the Gulf. In antiquity the Arabian Gulf went by many names—the Lower Sea, the Bitter Sea, the Sea of the Rising Sun, even, most confusingly, the Red Sea.

In times later than the Sumerian period it is evident that the scribes of Mesopotamia identified Dilmun (or Tilman as it became in the Semitic tongues which succeeded non-Semitic Sumerian) with the Bahrain islands; one of the kings of Tilman, Uperi, was said to "live like a fish in the midst of the sea".

In the past 20 years the presumption, first advanced by Rawlinson, that Dilmun and Bahrain are to be wholly identified has become almost a certainty. To be sure, like all proper fairy islands it frequently changed its extent and location, the term Dilmun (as later similarly applied to Bahrain) being taken sometimes to include much of eastern Arabia as well as the Bahrain islands.

The most important excavations in the islands, carried out over about 15 seasons from 1953, were undertaken by a team of Danish archaeologists whose work has now unequivocally established Bahrain as one of the most important archaeological regions of western Asia. Impressive though the Danish discoveries have



Burial mound dating from the Bronze Age, top, and designs on the obverse of two Dilmun seals of 2300 to 1900 BC.

been, they represent, in all probability, only a fraction of what remains to be recovered.

At the outset the Danes, like Durand before them, were drawn to the vast necropolis of burial mounds. They established the tumuli as dating from the beginning of the third millennium and the middle and later centuries of the third millennium and, about two thousand years later, from the centuries immediately before the beginnings of the present era.

A special category of burial was also identified by them, a group of exceptionally large tombs at the village of Aali. These, by reason of their size and the rich furnishings which it was just possible to speculate they had contained, were inevitably nominated the most important of the island's sites. The earliest of them is roughly contemporary with, or very little later than, the far more celebrated royal tombs of Ur, whose sombre evidences of isolation, of retainers and animals sacrificed on the deaths of their princely occupants, excited such interest on their discovery in the 1920s.

One tiny piece of evidence links the Bahrain "royal tombs" with those at Ur, a small gold dress ornament in the shape of a quatrefoil meander found in the excavation of one of the Aali tombs, similar to examples found in the Ur death pits.

As work progressed in Bahrain it became evident that the idea that the island had been used as a necropolis by a people other than its own inhabitants was untenable. For Dilmun to have been so flourishing a centre of third millennium trade there must, it was apparent, have been a continuous and substantial population in the island.

Soon the evidence for such a community was found buried beneath a large tell, a settlement mound on the north shore of the island, whose last notable structure was an extensive fort built by the Portuguese during the period in which that nation maintained a considerable presence in eastern Arabia. As the archaeologists dug farther and deeper into the

mound a rich stratigraphy was revealed, showing the site to have been occupied almost continuously from the early third millennium. By all acknowledged standards the Danes found themselves digging down through a large and important city site, which, finally they reached bedrock they could identify six major historical periods in which a substantial city had flourished on the site.

The first two cities were clearly of the third millennium through to the early second, the period of Dilmun's greatest commercial importance. The first city had been destroyed by attack; the second was built with formidable defences. A Kassite foundation was next in sequence, demonstrating the presence of the Persian mountain people who ruled the Mesopotamian cities after the Sumerians and their immediate successors. A Neo-Babylonian phase came next, approximately of the time of Uperi, the dweller in the midst of the sea.

The fifth city was Greek, founded by the successors of Alexander the Great who, as Arrian reported, had sent Nearchus, his Cretan admiral, on a voyage of discovery down the Gulf while the king was making his disastrous return from India, to his death in Babylon. The last settlement on the site dated from the middle centuries of the Islamic period, the time of the great and splendid Muslim Empires.

Only a small part of the site, which is known locally as the Qal'at al Bahrain, has yet been excavated. In area the mound is about two thirds the size of Ur, whose population has been variously assessed at between 200,000 and 300,000.

On such a computation Bahrain's 100,000 grave mounds seem an entirely reasonable quantity for the people of the city of Dilmun. The commercial role which Dilmun so frequently played in Sumer's records was supported by various finds from the Qal'at site. A set of weights, such as might have been used at the city's customs post, was found to be of Indus Valley origin, testifying to Bahrain's trading

partnership with such cities as Mohenjo-daro and Harappa.

By far the most appealing objects recovered from the early city levels, and subsequently from graves of the period, are the round, domed stamp seals which are characteristic of the Gulf at that time and which appear to have originated in Bahrain. Each seal, carved in steatite and seldom more than an inch in diameter, has incised on its obverse a tiny picture, the trademark or personal sign of a merchant who traded in Dilmun.

From the Greek levels at the Qal'at site, a remarkable hoard of almost uncirculated silver coins was recovered, most of them bearing the familiar portrait of Alexander the Great. The king, eternally young, wears the Ammon diadem of rams' horns which he assumed after the proclamation of his divinity as King of Egypt.

To define Bahrain's role as Dilmun the Paradise Land is more complex than the record of its commercial status. The Sumerians were compulsive myth-makers; when they had nothing better to do they made up stories, which they passed on to their children, that they give us that of a people of boundless energy and enthusiasm their religious beliefs were often expressed in deeply pessimistic terms.

To the Sumerians the gods were unpredictable, touchy and predominantly ill-natured; only one of them really cared for man, a creature who had been made for the service of the gods and who was appointed to carry out some want less than eddy tasks withdrew their labour.

The exception to their generally malign character was Enki, a god of extreme antiquity, who was related, first brought the arts of civilization to man, swimming up the Gulf, attended by monsters and rejoicing fishes, who were peculiarly his creatures. Enki was, in some aspects, the Creator-God; he was sufficiently concerned to attempt to save mankind when, on the somewhat petulant pretext that they were making an unreasonable amount of noise, the high gods determined to destroy the race of men by flood.

The Sumerian version of the legend is obviously vastly older than the familiar biblical epic; it is also almost certainly its ancestor. The Noah of the Sumerians was Ziusudra, king of Shuruppak, who was saved by Enki, who whispered into the wall of the king's reed hut the advice to build a boat and sail to safety. After the flood's devastation, when the gods, by this time thoroughly demoralized by the force of the storm, repent of their decision, they are so relieved to find that man has survived in the person of Ziusudra that he is translated to immortality in Dilmun, the only mortal to be thus rewarded.

The story of Ziusudra and the flood is contained in the greater cycle of myth which recounts the exploits of the archetypal hero, Gilgamesh, king of Uruk, perhaps the most enduring of all the great heroes of antiquity. Distraught at the death of his friend Enkidu and appalled at this prefiguring of his own mortality Gilgamesh sets off on a quest—the first example of this motif in world literature—to find the means of overcoming death.

He seeks out Ziusudra, the sole, once-mortal man who may help him; though the immortal warns him that man's life is soon spent and that a man can do more to overcome death than he can resist the little death of amplex excavated at Ur in

the royal tombs, which decorated the sound boxes of lyres and harps.

Apart from the work of the Department of Antiquities, notably at Al-Hajjar, the most recent excavations in Bahrain have been carried out by a British team, under the auspices of the Committee for Arabian and Gulf Studies. In addition to identifying what its excavator believes may be another temple site at Diraz, close to a sacred well found by the Danes, the expedition has uncovered evidence in Bahrain of the presence of Ubaid pottery users who camped on a small islet whose channel, dividing it from the main island, has now silted up.

The Ubaid people were among the earliest makers of pottery in southern Mesopotamia; culturally they were ancestral to the Sumerians, flourishing in the fifth and fourth millennia BC. The discovery of their traces so far south as Bahrain (and even farther south and east in Qatar) may prove to be of the first importance in establishing the patterns of life in eastern Arabia in the late prehistoric period.

Bahrain's archaeology is exceptionally rich; much of the island is archaeologically endowed and awaits excavation. Much has been achieved in the social and industrial development of the state; it is to be hoped that the same energies will now be put behind the recovery and preservation of its unique heritage.

The author has made a special study of the archaeology of Bahrain and the Gulf. He is concerned with the development of museums in the Arabian peninsula and the preservation of buildings of historic importance.

sleep, he tells Gilgamesh of a flower, growing at the bottom of the sea, which will restore youth.

Gilgamesh is overjoyed and tying weights to his feet plunges into the sea like a pearl diver, plucks the flower (which may indeed be the pearl) and, clothed in new garments given him by Ziusudra, sets out for Uruk.

But a final irony awaits Gilgamesh. On his way home he passes a pool, cool and inviting. He flings off his clothes and plunges in, leaving the flower of youth on the bank. His energetic splashing wakes a serpent sleeping in the pool's depths; it rises to the surface, smells the flower of youth, eats it and, in the method which Gilgamesh adopts for diving to the sea bed, is that immemorially employed by pearl divers in the Gulf. Bahrain was celebrated for its pearls in antiquity, and the export of pearls (called by the Sumerians, fish-eyes) is frequently recorded. It also appears from the epic that though Gilgamesh dives into the sea he plucks the flower from sweet water.

A peculiar phenomenon of the Bahrain seas and one which must have contributed much to the sense of mystery and sanctity which suffused the island in the minds of the Sumerian seamen who lugged down the Arabian coast in search of water, are the fresh-water springs which well up out of the sea bed. The phenomenon may be implied in the epic and it reinforces Bahrain's connection with Enki, Lord of the Primeval Waters, the Abzu.

The blessed land is described as a place where sickness and old age are unknown, where the animals live together in harmony and the lamentation of death are unheard. A myth of Enki describes how the god, at the behest of one of the island's goddesses, brings sweet water to Dilmun. The constant reiteration of the theme of water leads much to the island's legendary character; the name Bahrain itself means "the two seas" and may commemorate the salt and the sweet waters which so inconspicuously meet there. The meaning of Dilmun, a word probably pre-Sumerian in origin, is unknown; it has been suggested that it might signify "the terrible", "the majestic", two epithets which seem singularly inappropriate for a mild and friendly island.

On the northern shore at Barbar, a few miles from the city site, three successive temples, the earliest dating from about 2,600BC, have been excavated. The temples appear to have connections with Sumer and with the Indus Valley.

One of the most important features of the temple site is a perpetual spring which has been carefully built into a well, with finely cut steps and smooth ashlar block walling. A quantity of seals was found in the well, perhaps cast into it in some forgotten dedicatory ritual.

Among the artefacts recovered from the Barbar temple was a fine copper ox-head, moulded with great intensity and sensitivity. It is of a form unmistakably Sumerian and is almost identical with examples excavated at Ur in

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Bankers complain of too many doing too much

by Ann Fyfe

Bahrain's bankers consider that Bahrain's 15 banks are far too many. They also feel that the banks provide too many services and that the slightest increase in the present volume of lending would have a highly inflationary effect. They have a point if the situation in Bahrain is compared, for example, with that in neighbouring Kuwait where a larger volume of business is handled by only five banks.

On the other hand, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), with a population of 300,000 (Bahrain has 240,000) had 39 banks with 246 branches licensed—before its currency board banned new foreign banks earlier this year.

Bahrain has a lot of banks, but did not go to extremes in 1974 when many of the world's banks wanted to open in the Gulf. One of the reasons for that was the delay in sorting out the functions of the new Monetary Agency. Now that the latter is operating, however, the policy of discouraging new foreign banks remains in force.

But while determined to prevent more foreign banks from operating within the domestic economy, the Monetary Agency is keen to build up Bahrain's role as an international banking centre. It has recently reached a decision to grant limited licences to some banks, which will be known as "offshore banking units" and which will be able to take in large deposits from the governments, central banks or other banks in the region.

They will be able to take part in large medium-term loans, but will not be allowed to deal with the public directly in Bahrain. It is estimated that this decision could attract as many as 30 more banks to Bahrain in a purely offshore capacity. One of the Monetary Agency's functions is to manage the Government's surplus funds. Here we are not talking of the very large surpluses common elsewhere in the Gulf: budget revenue in 1974 was \$6.5m (about £78m) (revised upwards from the original estimate of \$3m) when Bahrain's 50 per cent share of the revenue from the Abu Sa'ad oil field in Saudi waters started to come in against expenditure of 70.6m dinars.

The 1975 budget envisages revenues of 134.2m dinars against expenditure of 111m dinars, the biggest spender being the Ministry

of Development and Engineering Services. In investing the surpluses which do come under its control, the agency saw fit last year, the year of the ending of the sterling guarantees, to reduce its sterling portfolio and get rid of its United Kingdom Treasury Bills and local authority investments.

This year the agency expects to continue to move out of sterling. The existing national distribution of Bahrain's 15 banks is regarded as highly satisfactory by the agency, which is not keen on disturbing it by licensing new banks from countries already represented.

Two of the banks—the National Bank of Bahrain and the Bank of Bahrain and Kuwait—are locally incorporated, while three more—the Arab Bank, Rafidain Bank and the Banque du Caire—are from other Arab countries.

Three are British—the British Bank of the Middle East, the Chartered Bank and Citibank. Two are from the United States—First National City Bank and Chase Manhattan. Two are Iranian—Bank Mellat and Bank Saderat Iran. And two—Habib Bank and United Bank—are Pakistani.

The fifteenth, Algemeine Bank Nederland, opened in February, and the Banque de Paris et des Pays Bas, the largest single amount

of bank lending followed by construction which takes half as much and then by manufacturing, which takes about half as much as construction. An authoritative current of opinion would like to see a considerably larger percentage channelled into manufacturing, and there is an awareness that building up a local food industry would be a sound investment.

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There is evidently a great deal to be done if agriculture and fishing are to be shaped into an adequate prop for the Bahrain economy. Much awareness of inflation has grown up in recent years and of the potential for a local food industry. Growing financial and technical emphasis can be expected to fall in the future on finding ways of increasing local supplies.

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Although most farmers plant two crops a year in summer and winter, vegetable production could easily be doubled without meeting home demand. Finally, about 1,000 dunums are under fruit trees, mostly mangoes and citrus fruit. An experimental farm run by the Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture at Budaiya on Manama tests varieties of seeds and distributes selected strains, with a subsidy, to local farmers. Soil and water research is carried out and fertilizers are

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Revival of agriculture sought as boost for economy

In Bahrain the factors contributing in all the Persian Gulf states to the attraction of labour away from the land, notably the rival attractions of Civil Service and industrial jobs, are exacerbated by the adverse natural factors of a declining water table and rising salinity, themselves aggravated by improper methods of irrigation.

Not that agriculture or fishing have been mass occupations in the modern era since the demise of the palm plantations, accounting for only 4,000 livelihoods in an economically active population of 60,000 at the time of the last census in 1971. None the less, in these days of soaring food prices, efforts are being made to overhaul the sector, to supply home demand and possibly inaugurate an export industry. To this end, a new United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization and United Kingdom technical assistance experts are working on pilot projects in Bahrain, breeding livestock, mulling irrigation problems and organizing trawling experiments.

Although 5,000 dunums of date palms are still cultivated in Bahrain and although local demand for fresh dates, now a luxury but once a staple food, is holding up well in the season, a further 10,000 dunums of date palms are moribund from neglect. Traditional irrigation by means of shallow surface channels has caused severe water-logging and rising salinity levels.

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Essential services, such as ploughing and spraying with insecticides are free, while heavy agricultural machinery—tractors and the like—are bought centrally and leased to the individual farmers. A 100,000 dinar Agricultural Credit Fund is being set up to provide interest-free loans to the farmers for the purchase of pumps and similar modern requisites.

Livestock to a traditional family meant a donkey, a cow and a number of sheep or goats or both, although thoroughbred horses are kept by the rich. Grazing is much better in Bahrain than in the rest of the Gulf, but a herd of 250 Awassi sheep from Saudi Arabia and Iraq is being kept experimentally with a view to supervising their feeding, and to identifying the principal diseases to which they are prone.

In addition, 300 cows are to be imported next year from Australia to form the nucleus of a dairy farm which the ministry is setting up on Muharraq island. This is a big project for which supply and services contracts will be awarded. Most meat consumed is imported chilled from Australia but quantities of live cattle are brought from East Africa as well. One of the other main schemes is for the construction of a modern slaughterhouse and a quarantine area as part of the long fight against disease.

Although there are 17 commercial poultry farms on Bahrain, most of them are geared to the production of broiler chickens and only a few concentrate on eggs. As a result, a 700,000 dinar contract has been awarded to West German concern to produce 15 million eggs a year, which is still only one third of local consumption. Most supplies are imported.

Local fish supplies are particularly tight and the need to improve them is regarded as a priority at the ministry. Only about 1,300 population of 60,000 was employed in fishing at the time of the 1971 census. Since then the numbers have fallen to about 800. Most of the 3,500 tons of fish landed each year in Bahrain is from boats operated by other Persian Gulf nationals, particularly

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An urgent survey of deep water fish is underway to assess present stocks and the intensity of fishing they can support without depletion. This basic information has not been available in the past. It may prove possible to market types of fish with which the public has not been familiar before. The basic aim of all these measures is to increase the volume of supplies available to the consumer in order to prevent any further price rises.

There is evidently a great deal to be done if agriculture and fishing are to be shaped into an adequate prop for the Bahrain economy. Much awareness of inflation has grown up in recent years and of the potential for a local food industry. Growing financial and technical emphasis can be expected to fall in the future on finding ways of increasing local supplies.

After the date gardens, alfalfa accounts for between 4,000 and 5,000 dunums while about 3,000 dunums are under vegetables, mainly tomatoes but with a quantity of cucumber, eggplant, okra, cauliflower, carrots and musk melons according to season.

Although most farmers plant two crops a year in summer and winter, vegetable production could easily be doubled without meeting home demand. Finally, about 1,000 dunums are under fruit trees, mostly mangoes and citrus fruit. An experimental farm run by the Ministry of Municipalities and Agriculture at Budaiya on Manama tests varieties of seeds and distributes selected strains, with a subsidy, to local farmers. Soil and water research is carried out and fertilizers are

of bank lending followed by construction which takes half as much and then by manufacturing, which takes about half as much as construction. An authoritative current of opinion would like to see a considerably larger percentage channelled into manufacturing, and there is an awareness that building up a local food industry would be a sound investment.

It is becoming the practice to raise capital to finance new businesses by floating share issues, of which the new hotels company and the National Bank of Bahrain are examples. The issues are in-

variably heavily oversubscribed, showing that wealthy Bahraini families are willing to invest in ventures in Bahrain. It will be some time however before the movement into local shares—there are only about a dozen public companies at the moment—gathers sufficient momentum to justify a local stock exchange.

The merchants in Bahrain did not go through the sudden decline in oil revenues (and thus inactivity) which brought spending to a temporary halt in the UAE and Oman earlier this year and as a result do not seem to be beset by serious overstocking or a reduced cash flow.

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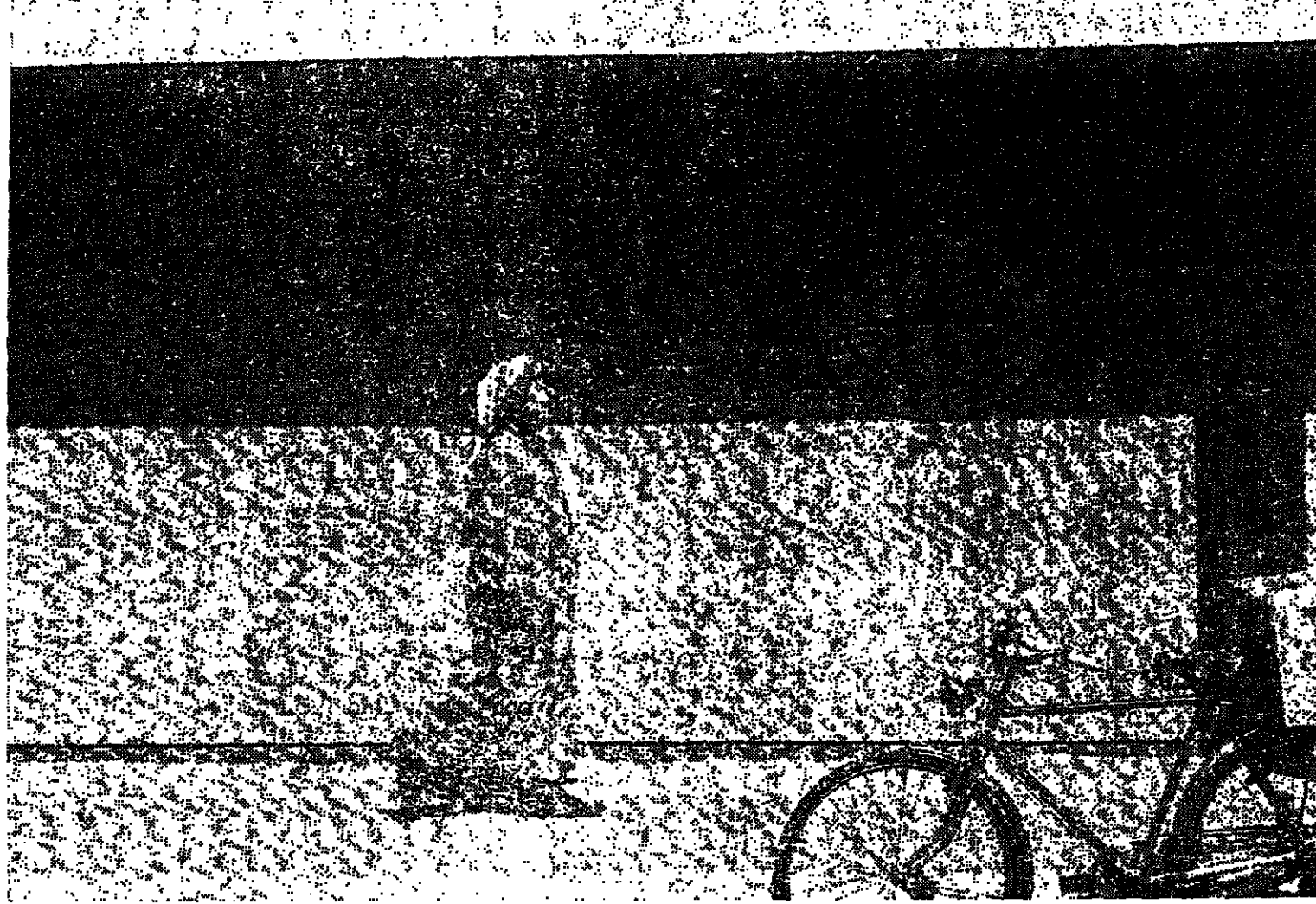
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WE MUST GUARD OUR FREEDOMS

Issue of press freedom, which has come to dominate the stages of the Trade Union Labour Relations Bill, arises in this way. The Bill facilitates the right of newspapers to close shops, to which the Bill applies as to all others, the right of closed shops of the union in editorial departments throughout the industry to create a situation of some kind to a free press. It would be in the hands of the national Union of Journalists that it is that union and not the right of Journalists which is sought to push things to a conclusion. A power to control indirectly the type of newspaper, publisher, all papers, publish. That is a power which ought to be able to any person or organization, be they ministers, proprietors, editors, associations, journalists, or public service of governors. Multiplicity of publications and of seats of editorial authority, is the one only organizational defence of the freedom of the press which is now having.

The internal politics of the national Union of Journalists is it look less likely now than it did earlier in the year that union would seek to exercise its power if it got it. But its powers are not reliable for the future. Accordingly changes in the Bill have been widely proposed, and Lord Goodman led amendments in the House of Lords, which that House has now agreed to ensure that that unsafe power should fall into the union's hands.

N INTEREST CRUDELY ASSERTED

There can be little doubt about hostility within the EEC at Callaghan's firm demand for separate British seat at the meeting in December on international economic cooperation. The situation has the kings of a considerable domestic and procedural crisis, those involved are taking up increasingly entrenched positions in the next stage of the preparatory arrangements must be completed within about a fortnight.

At the diplomatic level, it is clear that our partners are some cause for complaint. The timing of the British refusal to have its interests represented by the spokesman for the Community was abrupt. It is true that the British position was entered at the various points when the issue of representation at the conference was discussed. Yet our partners with some fairness say that we were not given much or an advance warning that this was going to be treated as a point on which compromise was possible. The motions of sure in the European Parliament

IR WHITLAM AS LLOYD GEORGE

Malcolm Fraser has been under pressure from his opposition colleagues in the Australian Parliament to force a general election ever since the petrol scandal compelled Mr Whitlam to sack the former treasurer, Dr Cairns. Mr Fraser said that he would only do so "extraordinarily and reprehensible circumstances". The new deal, which has enveloped Mr Whitlam, the minister for mining, forced the Prime Minister to sack him in turn, has been so strident by Mr Fraser: accordingly the Senate's opposition has vetoed the budget, ringing the government without delay. In a parliamentary democracy, the inevitable result would be an appeal to the electorate for its verdict.

Mr Whitlam does not dispute the validity of the opposition's tactics in the Senate, even though it was one of his own advisers who let it be known that Mr Connor had deceived him by continuing negotiations with Mr Khamisani, the Syrian, after all such authorisation had been withdrawn from on May 20. Mr Whitlam says democracy is in danger, not in danger, provided he is a general election. The

e Prince of Wales
The Rev John Pearce
Dame Daphne du Maurier (over 10) may care to know that Majesty's loyal subjects in St Peter's Parish Church are invited to Biddings at Morning Prayer Evening Prayer and led in the Prayers at those Offices to "Charles, Duke of Cornwall". Perhaps a Cornishman, born in Cornwall, may point out that Prince Charles was born to this title in 1951.
N. PEARCE,
10th Vicarage,
Hilston, Wall.

ing for pleasure
Mr Arthur Koestler
May I propose a simple cure for all our economic ills? The remedy is P.A.T.—Pleasure Tax. It seems only fair and that the more you enjoy

The Goodman amendments proposed a statutory charter for the press specifying rules of conduct, breaches of which would be actionable. The purpose of the rules was to secure, among other things, a right of journalists to join the union of their choice and not to be expelled from it unreasonably, and a right of editors not to belong to a union and to publish and not publish any article free from the pressure of industrial action. The Goodman amendments have now been enervated by the Commons. Mr Michael Foot has carried a version which substitutes a non-enforceable charter yet to be negotiated within the industry offering "practical guidance" in matters relating to the freedom of the press, such matters to include the avoidance of improper pressure to distort or suppress news and comment, the application of union membership agreements to journalists, and the question of access for contributors. Late on Wednesday night Mr Foot agreed to have added to the list "the right of editors to discharge their duties and to commission and publish any article". That was enough to bring into line those Labour MPs who were actively alarmed about the implications of the Bill for press freedom.

Lord Goodman's approach is unquestionably more apt for the purpose than the approach lately adopted by Mr Foot. The question which members of the House of Lords must now decide is whether the Goodman form of charter is so much more valuable, and the principle embodied in its method so necessary to vindicate, that a clash with the Commons is justified, even

ment yesterday were an expression of this angered reaction. It might, in retrospect, have been better for the British Government to insist on a definite time-table during the summer and early autumn during which a common, or at least sufficiently comprehensive, policy on energy could have been formulated for the Community as a whole. It is likely, indeed, that the members of the EEC would not have been able to reach any such general agreement within the time available. The British Government would, in that case, have been able to insist on separate representation, so as to be able to express its views.

It cannot be denied that the British interest in the central questions to be discussed at the conference is different from those of the other members of the Community. In the main this is because of the prospect of our becoming self-sufficient in oil within a decade. It is also because British commercial and financial links are far more extensive with the rest of the world.

The Community's business is

only person now endangering democracy is his ally Mr Bob Hawke, the Australian TUC leader, who has warned that a general strike might be called if the opposition blocked the government's money. As it has done so, his threat seems to be an order for the Senate to vote against the other way.

The Senate has not exceeded its powers. Though its treatment of government bills drove Mr Whitlam to a double dissolution in 1974, it has never before refused supply. Mr Whitlam won that election in the lower house but lost it in the upper, a circumstance which just might be interpreted as a mandate to the Senate to be a more active watchdog. But Mr Fraser rightly recognized that the opposition would never have "a more difficult and momentous decision" than vetoing the budget. There is not a strict comparison with the House of Lords in 1910, however, because the Australian Senate is elected.

Mr Whitlam may find it hard to raise a "peers v people" cry, and he may not dissolve immediately. There are alternatives. In a straight election he is likely to lose. The polls run against him and he lost the last by-election heavily. Inflation, unemployment, the collapse of

Tories and Land Bill
From Mr Cyril Smith, Liberal MP for Rochdale
Sir, Once again the Tory Party's

though its practical outcome will be no more than to delay enactment of the Bill for six months or so.

There is no longer inter-party disagreement in Parliament about the kind of threat to press freedom which could grow, in combination with other factors, from the passage of this legislation—though there are differences of view about the liveliness of the threat. Mr Foot has made useful concessions in the face of serious expressions of concern inside and outside Parliament. He has now arrived at ground where all the Parliamentary Labour Party are prepared to stand. Their argument with the opposition parties and with the majority in the Lords is about the best method of preventing what all broadly agree ought to be prevented. The opposition have decided the better of that argument. But it is doubtful if much would be gained by the Lords pressing it to the point of denying the Government its Bill this session.

The stand which the House of Lords has taken, and Lord Goodman's part in it in particular, has been of the greatest value in clarifying the issues concerning the freedom of the press raised by this legislation and alerting the public to their gravity. The threats which have been identified, however, are of a kind which are internal to the newspaper industry itself. The first and best safeguard against that sort of threat is in the hands of those who work in the industry, managers, editors, journalists. If they possess the clear-sightedness and will to guard the essential freedoms entrusted to them, they have the power to do so.

regularly punctuated with moments where a national government in conflict with the spirit of Community arrangements, makes an independent stand on an issue of national interest. We have just seen one such between France and Italy over trade in wine. During the referendum campaign it was made clear by those in favour of British membership that this would not, in the British view, involve the Europeanization of British North Sea oil.

To that extent the Foreign Secretary is being consistent. There remains, however, a question over his motive for handling the issue in this brusque way. He probably sees advantage in terms of the left-wing of his own party and Cabinet in being seen thus crudely to be standing up for British interests. He is probably also engaged in a negotiating ploy to ensure that the British obtain the chairmanship of one of the conference's main committees, say that dealing with energy. Somehow a compromise must be found, for it is unthinkable that the conference should founder on this British procedural objection.

confidence, evident mismanagement, have all undermined his earlier strength in the country. The latest round of the loans affair suggests that his ministers (who are elected to the cabinet by the caucus though allotted portfolios by the prime minister) are good neither at managing money nor at giving reliable explanations of their activities. The spectacle of continuing, hole-in-corner negotiations with an itinerant broker for a loan of the size (\$4,000 million) which is normally raised inter-governmentally and between major financial principals, has bruised the very sense of national pride which Mr Whitlam set himself to stimulate in Australian hearts. He could postpone the reckoning by a partial senate dissolution, hoping to benefit from a new provision to increase its number from sixty to sixty-five. Or he might only go to the country when the failure to pay government salaries and outstanding bills brings home the real meaning of the Senate's vote. To do so would be to risk Australia's credit, perhaps to risk chaos, in an attempt to twist the voter's arm. This would be no way to run the country. Mr Whitlam's decision is now even more momentous than Mr Fraser's.

There is far worse than this blue Having devoted both party political radio and television broadcasts to the Community Land Bill, one would have expected that the Tories would have fought the Bill to the death.

Not only were these two broadcasts dominated by the Community Land Bill but also the Tory Party Conference was promised firm opposition by their front-bench spokesmen.

Pairing arrangements are no excuse, as if the Tories really meant business, pairing would not have been allowed.

In these circumstances, may I ask why 71 Tory MPs absented themselves from the House? It is all very well for Tory leaders to infuse their rank and file with enthusiasm but grass-root Tories should realize that the performance of the Parliamentary Tory Party today is in inept and lackadaisical as in the last session.

Yours faithfully,
CYRIL SMITH,
House of Commons.

The evidence of Christian origins

From the Rev Professor C. F. D. Moussier

Sir, Professor J. H. Hick's article, "Change of view of the uniqueness of Christ," in *The Times* for Saturday, October 11, displays a serious misconception of Christian origins. He evidently thinks that an estimate of Jesus as in a unique sense one with God stands or falls with the authenticity of certain claims attributed to Jesus in the Gospels. He does not so much as hint at the earliest disciples' conviction that he had shown himself alive after the crucifixion, on the experience of him as the means of new life which is reflected in the earliest documents. Ignoring this, he fastens on the title Messiah, which also means (in a certain sense) son of God, and makes it the beginning of an evolutionary process leading eventually to a mythology of Jesus' divinity.

If Professor Hick had but reflected on the evidence, he might have realized that the surprising is that the title Messiah ever stuck at all, and how remote that sort of sonship is from the remarkable relation between Jesus and his "Father" for which there is strong evidence. Having dismissed the evidence in this already unpropitious way, and leaving the genesis of the Christian movement completely unexplained, he then tells us (on what evidence is not divulged) what Jesus was really like: a man so close to God that he was almost lived on, and like that of other religious geniuses, has proved good for quite a lot of people. Surely the evidence for Christian origins deserves more scholarly treatment.

As for "changing views"—does Professor Hick imagine that the question of Christian origins is a matter of opinion? A scholar of his stature must surely know better.

Yours faithfully,
C. F. D. MOUSSIER,
Professor of Divinity in the University of Cambridge,
Clare College, Cambridge.

The law on rape

From Professor Glanville Williams, QC

Sir, In replying to Miss Anne Louise Huey's letter (October 9) on her distressing experience when bringing a charge of rape, I hope I shall have written for a long time for what must have been a harrowing experience. But Miss Huey attributes the man's acquittal of rape to the recent decision of the House of Lords, and says that "apparently the only way I could have convinced the jury of his guilt was to tell them that he was a bad person". This is a misconception of the decision.

In prosecutions for rape there have always been clashes of evidence on whether the woman consented and the case of *Morgan* does not deal with that at all. Moreover, the jury would not have found Miss Huey "guilty of leading a man on," as she says; all they had to decide was whether they were sure of the man's guilt. It is natural that Miss Huey, as the master of the case, that way, but the fact remains that the jury were trying the man, not her, and the burden of proof was on the prosecution.

It is certainly surprising that the jury should have convicted the man of leading a man on to rape but not of rape, if there was any doubt of the fact of intercourse. Such a verdict may be a reflection on the jury. But we ought not to dismantle rules of law designed for the protection of the innocent just because "hard" news reports. During the run-up to Britain's entry into Europe in 1973, over the space of a month *News at Ten* contained 18 explanatory items (totaling over 80 minutes) on various aspects of the Community in addition to the daily reports about the negotiated terms and the running debate. Before the June referendum this year we ran a similar service about the issues at stake (in addition to the campaign coverage)—18 items totalling 72 minutes.

There are many other examples to quote—on the economy, on employment, on the environment, on trade unions. Throughout the Yom Kippur war we provided a highly analytical of the diplomatic, political and military issues involved. In the past month our diplomatic correspondents have provided background and analysis to the situations in Portugal, the Lebanon and on the Basque crisis. These

Criminal insanity

From Mr Paul Robertson

Sir, The sudden graduation, in middle age, of the Cambridge rapist from social nuisance to a terrorist seems to raise questions which must be answered if we want to minimize the risk of such non-political terrorism being repeated. Professor Nigel Walker's study of *Crime and Insanity in England* shows that over half those subject to hospital orders are guilty of property offences. What is less clear is how many of these have also been found guilty of offences involving violence against the person, or how many of them suffer from mental problems not directly related to their offences, or indeed whether recidivism can of itself be considered a mental problem. Confinement in a mental hospital, be that as it may, the future rapist was labelled—if not labelled—as criminally insane at a time when he had no record of violence, terrorism or sexually deranged behaviour.

We need to know why this happened. Did he really mislead the authorities and experts as to his insanity or was it because the drug regime at Broadmoor would curb his propensity towards sex? We need to know what his contacts and relationships were during those two years when he was in the continuous company, conversation and influence of sadists, psychopaths and the sexually deranged? Did addition to "hard-core pornography" commence before, during, or after his time there? Did he come to accept the label of him as "criminally insane" although the doctors discharged him as not being in need of their treatment, or did he feel entitled to behave as such in revenge for it?

Clearly there are some very speculative elements in these questions, but I believe there may be some rocks amongst the sands of speculation, enough to justify an inquiry and a published report. We should ensure that we are not nurturing social terrorists in our penal processes.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL ROBERTSON,
The University, Hull.

Investment of Arab oil revenue

From Mr Anthony Nelson, Conservative MP for Chichester

Sir, Your leading article of October 14 on Arab disaffection with sterling for payment of oil revenues rightly points out that what really matters is not the currency in which payment is made but the use that is made of the funds. It is, however, quite apparent that if they intended recycling a sizable and continuing proportion of their oil surpluses into sterling deposits or investments they would hardly demand all payments to be made in dollars.

Out of the prospective OPEC surplus of 1975—\$45,000 million—approximately \$5,000 million is expected to be placed in Britain (largely in deposits or gilts). This is \$2,500 million less than last year. While OPEC countries are undoubtedly spending more on their own development programmes, the IMF oil facility and international aid, it is quite clear that a major reason for the declining investment attraction of Britain is the economic, industrial and investment policies of the present Government.

We should hardly be surprised that sterling deposits which offer a negative rate of return in real terms do not prove attractive to OPEC governments and we can hardly expect them to relapse until our Government recognises the inflationary impact of its own profligate expenditure. Not even as reliance in the excellence or size of our City capital market, will retain investments whose dividend and redemption value amount to less than the rate of inflation over a period of time.

Higher interest rates through changes in the Minimum Lending Rate will delay the recovery from recession and fuel the fire of inflation if they imply an increasing public sector borrowing requirement. The first recourse must therefore be a substantial cut in public spending together with a programme to reduce the extent of central and local government deficit financing in subsequent years. That is to say, cut your cloth and balance your books.

Presentation of news on television

From the Editor of Independent Television News

Sir, While heartily agreeing with the programming conclusions of John Birt and Peter Jay for a long evening programme of television news and analysis together with (much needed) allied weekly and monthly programmes as well, I find two central flaws in their reasoning which I hope you will agree it is important to identify publicly. The first is to be had from the discussion which the prominent display of their views in your newspaper has aroused.

Birt and Jay argue for a profound change in television journalism and list among the inadequacies of television news in particular the lack of proper analysis and background to give sense to otherwise meaningless snippets of film. This is indeed a danger, especially in short news programmes, but I submit that the public have a right to be told the truth, and the exaggerated malady and incorrectly diagnosed the root cause. In the first place they overlook the fact that much of what they want already exists. *News at Ten* provides background material of the kind for which they are arguing. The ITN programme *First Report* was devised three years ago to meet precisely the points raised in their articles in *The Times*.

The process of integrating news and analysis has been going on within ITN for many years as an extra service over and above the "hard" news reports. During the run-up to Britain's entry into Europe in 1973, over the space of a month *News at Ten* contained 18 explanatory items (totaling over 80 minutes) on various aspects of the Community in addition to the daily reports about the negotiated terms and the running debate. Before the June referendum this year we ran a similar service about the issues at stake (in addition to the campaign coverage)—18 items totalling 72 minutes.

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Availability of legal aid

From Mr Jeremy H. Beecham

Sir, We are becoming accustomed to generalized attacks upon the legal profession by senior police officers and it is not therefore surprising to read of the criticisms of the legal aid system voiced at the Police Superintendents' Association conference. I trust the details of those cases in which it is alleged that malpractice has occurred have been forwarded to the Law Society since many of the allegations would found disciplinary proceedings.

It is touching to note the concern by the police for the effective representation of the defendants without this contrasted markedly with Mr Hemmingsway's reported suggestion that defendants should supply particulars of their defence when applying for legal aid. There is of course no such obligation on the part of the prosecution to tender their evidence before the hearing, save where committal proceedings are involved.

Those of us who practise in the criminal courts are also concerned with the workings of the legal aid system. There are wide differences in practice between the attitude of different courts towards the granting of legal aid and in the making of contribution orders. Defendants with limited means are not infrequently refused legal aid in the Magistrates Court and if they are to be represented at all have no choice but to elect for trial at the Crown Court where legal aid is, rightly, more readily available.

This involves clogging the Crown Court with cases which could per-

fectly properly be dealt with at the Magistrates Court, and wasting the time of defendants, courts, professional advisers, and the police, in dealing with wholly unnecessary committal proceedings. It is indeed time for the operation of the legal aid system in criminal cases to be reviewed not with the purpose of curtailing the availability of legal aid but of ensuring its ready availability in the interests both of justice and efficiency.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. BEECHAM,
14 Bemersyde Drive, Jesmond, Newcastle upon Tyne.
October 2.

Far more important for Britain however than oil revenue being recycled into short term sterling or even Euro currency deposits (a sizeable share of which are held in London), is the level of direct investment in the equity capital of industry or domestic real assets. The importance of this has been consistently neglected by the Chancellor of the Exchequer in his talks on recycling oil revenue, by his apparent inability to differentiate between lending to Britain and investing in Britain.

Similarly successive Secretaries of State for Industry have provided extensive discretionary powers to restrict foreign investment in the United Kingdom through prohibition and vesting orders under the Industry Bill. The prospect of continuing dividend control, nationalization of profitable sectors of British industry and the NEB extending the clammy hand of state control are enough to put off even the most adventurous international investor from portfolio investment in Britain.

Political and financial security are prime considerations for the Arabs. On the former count we must still rate relatively highly but the growing power of revolutionary groups in Western Europe and our comparative neglect of adequate internal or external finance do not augur well for the future. On the financial side, the Bank Herstatt collapse last year and the credit problems of New York City have frightened international investors away from all but the biggest banks and concentrated their attention on the risk of default by governments and depositors whose credit rating hitherto has been unquestioned.

Parallels in this country are not hard to find. The Arabs should know better than anyone that financial prudence and reputation in the past cannot remain a substitute for solvency in the future. The British Government must learn the same lesson.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY NELSON,
House of Commons,
October 15.

Pollution control in Europe

From Mr H. E. Hopthorn

Sir, The letter of Mr Woolf, chairman of the Lawyers' Ecology Group (October 8), illustrates the confusion in the minds of many people as well as those of his own group about the declared intentions and the realities of pollution control in some continental countries.

Mr Woolf writes: "The proposal by our Community Partners to submit to such standards themselves and impose them upon each other is accordingly a great step forward in international co-operation." There is no doubt about their wish to impose standards on others, but are some of them willing or even able to submit?

The International Commission for the Protection of the Rhine against Pollution was established in 1963 with headquarters at Koblenz on the Rhine (recently described as the Continent's biggest sewer). The commission has seldom met. Its meeting for 1974 was postponed to the spring of 1975 and again at the wish of Germany. Switzerland, the last end of the year, because of "the current economic crisis which makes them reluctant to undertake costly anti-pollution measures".

Since 1969 the Council of Europe has been striving to devise a European convention for the protection of international water-courses against pollution. In the middle of last year a draft was published and described by the chairman of the Ministers' Deputies as being the outcome of highly complex negotiation reflecting a compromise on the part of all the member states. The draft includes three technical appendices which have been referred to another committee yet to meet; also a preliminary list, likely to be considerably extended, of 27 named rivers (including the Rhine) in which derogations from standards will be permitted.

These are but two examples of the vast thinking and reality in European organizations. Britain is well ahead of many of its partners in environmental legislation and performance and can make valuable contributions to the councils of the Community, meanwhile the policy of the Government, lucidly summarized by Lord Ashby (October 10), deserves the support of not only the water authorities, farmers and industry but equally that of the ecologist and conservationists.

Yours truly,
H. E. HOPHTHORN,
Surrey House,
45 Queens Road, Cowes, IOW.
October 14.

Cathedral appeals

From Mr Andrew Anderson

Sir, The Twentieth Sunday after Trinity is, I suppose, as good a time as any for the Rector of Northolt, propelled by the volatile fuel of laudable journalism, to write to you (October 14), reopening the earlier skirmishings in your columns on the justification of cathedral appeals.

Your correspondent knows of incumbents, let alone curates, in England drawing social security, welfare benefits, I, Sir, know curates, let alone many incumbents, who are willing to contribute to cathedral appeals, indeed to devote long hours of committee work to the maintenance of the historic buildings of the Church of England, large and small.

Quite apart from the question of the importance of our cathedrals as national monuments and the part they play in the life of the nation, the not supporting reasons which can be advanced for the existence of these wonderful buildings and their musical tradition from the standpoint of the Church herself?

Does materialism dominate theology and pastoral thinking to the extent that we cannot see the part which architecture and music plays in the maintenance and regeneration of the Church's mission in the modern world? Do not these buildings exist to inspire the laity to contribute to the Church's mission, to the augmentation of clergy stipends and to caring more deeply for human need, at home and overseas?

Saint Francis began his mission to the poor with a programme of fabric maintenance. Might not his order, that we cannot see the part which architecture and music plays in the maintenance and regeneration of the Church's mission in the modern world? Do not these buildings exist to inspire the laity to contribute to the Church's mission, to the augmentation of clergy stipends and to caring more deeply for human need, at home and overseas?

I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
ANDREW ANDERSON,
The Close, Norwich.

Keeping tinned food

From Miss Joan Peters

Sir, The letter from Jean M. Palling of Borkwood Park, Leamington, in your issue on Friday, October 10, prompts me to reply regarding keeping times of canned food.

Canned food should be stored in a cool dry place and used in rotation and ideally the dates of purchase marked on the label.

Obviously, cans of food will be perfectly sound for periods greater than those given below but the following times agreed between my company and the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food are recommended for them to be in prime condition.

Fruits—12 years.
Evaporated Milk—12 months.
Milk Puddings—12 months.
Vegetables—2 years.
Soups—2 years.
Fruit Juices—12 months.
Carbonated Drinks—6 to 12 months.
Solid pack meat—up to 5 years.
Meat and vegetable meals—2 years.
Fish in oil—5 years.
Fish in sauce—12 months.
I do hope this will assist your reader.

Yours faithfully,
JOAN PETERS,
Home Economics Advisor,
Metal Box Limited,
Queens House,
Forbury Road,
Reading,
October 15.

US broker proposes national share market

From Frank Vogl
Washington, Oct 16

Mr Donald T. Regan, chairman and chief executive officer of the world's largest stock brokerage company, Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith Incorporated, today outlined a detailed plan for a radical reorganization of the securities business in the United States.

The plan, if accepted by the Congress and the Securities and Exchange Commission, could effectively make stock exchanges obsolete.

In testimony at a SEC hearing, the Merrill Lynch chief called for establishment of a national market system, which he maintained "will encourage competition among market makers and attract new capital to the securities industry".

The plan is important because it appears increasingly probable now that the SEC itself strongly supports the sort of new system Mr Regan is advocating.

Today's hearing was called to discuss rule 394 of stock exchange regulations which strictly limits the ability of member firms from trading off the market floors of exchanges.

The SEC appears to be moving towards abolition of this rule to the intense annoyance of those who run the exchanges and wish to maintain the

monopoly position they have in the pricing and trading of shares.

Mr Regan's suggestion on rule 394 today could well be accepted by the SEC. He argued against drastic changes in rule 394 at this time, maintaining that its abolition could "hurt small investors and place financial strains on many brokers."

Instead, he proposed that the rule be abolished once a clear timetable has been established for creating a radically new national market system, complete with vital safeguards for all involved in the securities industry.

The scheme outlined by Mr Regan, which would bring securities trading into the present day world of electronic communications, is a considerable refinement of the broad outline of a possible national market system contained in a SEC White Paper of March, 1973.

At the heart of the new system would be a centralized communications facility capable of receiving, validating, storing, displaying and cancelling all manner of instructions, such as orders and quotations, that are at present made by members of the system.

It would be a truly national system, rather than one based largely on New York. Linked



Mr J. J. Needham, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange.

nationally through use of a consolidated tape, it would be available in the offices of all system members, and carry details of all transactions in listed securities in which a broker-dealer or institutional investor participates.

To make this a cohesive system it will be a basic requirement that all members enter all transactions on to this tape.

The system would make it possible for all bids and offers containing price and quantity information to be entered into

it and so visible to any member and market maker.

Thus entry of information on orders and quotations will bind the member who enters the information to execute deals to any member of the system within the parameters of size and price shown by the entered data.

To make this work there will be uniform rules establishing price priority, time priority for execution of orders and precedence for orders from various different and occasionally competing sources.

The system will to a large extent make the specialists on the floors of exchanges obsolete. Mr Regan suggested that under his system there would be no limitation on the number of members permitted to make a market in any security.

The new system would maintain the recent innovation by the SEC of freely negotiable "Floor Order" contracts. The issue of the 1,550 listed corporations was whether the pricing of stocks was determined by a public meeting of the exchanges, or by the dispersed judgment of a number of dealers operating in the back offices of securities firms. He was commenting in an editorial in the *Wall Street Journal*, A.P. Dow Jones reports.

Under the system no market maker would have a forced obligation to make a continuous market in a stock, although their activities would to some degree be regulated to ensure when they can enter and leave the market.

Specialist dealers would not be needed as they are today, in handling limit orders and these can be dealt with directly through all system members.

The system could embrace all securities, including those now trading in the over-the-counter market.

The ideas outlined by Mr Regan today will spark controversial public discussion and the response from the exchanges will probably be shrill. The leaders of the New York and American Stock Exchanges testify before the SEC next week.

According to Mr James J. Needham, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange, the real issue for the 1,550 listed corporations was whether the pricing of stocks was determined by a public meeting of the exchanges, or by the dispersed judgment of a number of dealers operating in the back offices of securities firms. He was commenting in an editorial in the *Wall Street Journal*, A.P. Dow Jones reports.

Leyland chief calls for wage system reform

By Clifford Webb

British Leyland would continue to hand the industry over on a "plate" to its competitors until it introduced a more rational wage bargaining system, Mr Pat Lowry, the group's personnel director, said yesterday.

Delivering the 1975 Nuffield Memorial Lecture to the Institution of Production Engineers he said that although the number of separate bargaining units had been substantially reduced there were still more than 250.

"Many plants have more than one bargaining unit—in the Castle Bromwich plant there are nine—and the white collar unions bargain separately. An additional and serious complication is that there is no common date for the renewal of agreements."

Mr Lowry said he now profoundly regretted that BL had not persisted with its 1970 proposals for a joint management-union council, but that 1970 employee participation did not trip so lightly off the tongue as today and the company had unfortunately accepted the union's rejection.

"With hindsight I am confident that if the council had been established and we had set up the machinery for frequent meetings with the employees' power base—senior shop stewards—we would have been spared at least some of the bitterness and misunderstanding of the last five years."

On a number of occasions

BL had seriously considered recognizing the unofficial Combined Shop Stewards Committee as an alternative to its own rejected proposals. However, when this possibility was raised with union officials the company was warned off.

"The unions themselves did not recognize the combine, and the price to the corporation would be for doing so would be to lose the valuable support and assistance of fulltime union officials."

On the much-publicized activities of militants he said: "Extremist influences totally dedicated to the destruction of society as we know it have never been totally absent from BL."

"But as one of nature's optimists I take the view that the basic reforms we have introduced will, in the long run, bring about a principled consistency which our managers are urged to adopt in grievance handling, the greater understanding—both as a result of our efforts and the Ryder report—that employees

take to the problems of the company and the attitude of ownership and, not least, our proposals for employee participation, together combine to give us hope for the new British Leyland."

Lord Ryder also said that the British worker was often unfairly criticized. "We hear a good deal about strikes and low productivity. We hear much less about low rates of absenteeism, low rates of labour turnover, and high levels of skills compared with workers in comparable industries abroad."

"We also need to take more chances in the future. For a nation of our size, we still have the lead in many areas of advanced technology. The pity of it is that we too often lack the resources, or the marketing flair to exploit our technological advantage fully."

EEC slump may have hit lowest point

By Peter Hill

Brussels, Oct 16.—All available data showed that recession in the European Economic Community had reached its lowest point and an overall upturn in economic activities could be expected for early 1976, Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Commissioner for Economic and Monetary Affairs said here today.

There were growing indications that in several EEC member countries "the low points of the worst recession in postwar years had been passed, he said."

A turnaround of overall economic trends at the beginning of next year could be based on a growing volume of world trade, national measures taken to stimulate production, and by several "spontaneous" domestic factors, primarily a new build-up of stocks, he added.

Under these circumstances a growth in the Community's overall gross domestic product of between 3 and 4 per cent in real terms was "entirely possible and probable" next year.

Herr Haferkamp's statement coincided with the release of the EEC Commission's annual economic report which reviewed 1975 activities, made predictions for 1976 and contained recommendations on economic policy.

The most important task for the EEC's economic policy in coming months would be to support the upturn and to create conditions for a sound growth, and an improvement in the employment situation without fanning inflation again.

Despite the deflationary effects of the latest 10 per cent oil price increase, the commission said, a 5 per cent growth of the volume of world trade in 1976 could be expected, with a growth of 6 per cent in the EEC.

Growth in world trade appeared all the more probable as the United States and Japan continued to have overcome low points of their recession with marked upturns visible.

But the new inflationary push in the United States and Japan could fuel hopes for a soundly-based economic recovery.—A.P.

Lowry Jones. Japan would have to consider further deflationary measures next month, if a package adopted last month proved insufficient by then, Mr Yugo Komatsu, vice-minister of international trade and industry said yesterday.—Reuters.

Norsk Hydro to invest £355m in chemicals

By Peter Hill

Norway's Norsk Hydro company is pressing ahead with a huge investment in petrochemical production facilities despite the recession and a big increase in construction costs since the project was first approved.

Mr John H. Holte, the company's president, also disclosed at a press conference in London yesterday that the group had negotiated terms under which the Norwegian Government would become a substantial shareholder in the Mongstad refinery. Its interests in marketing refinery products are to be transferred to the state.

While other major chemical companies are shelving investment projects, Norsk Hydro, which has substantial interests in offshore oil in the North Sea, is going ahead.

The company's investment centres on a petrochemical complex being built in the south of Norway. This will include an

ethylene cracker with plants for the production of chlorine, vinyl chloride monomer. There will be associated plants for making polyethylene and polyethylene.

Total estimated costs for the development is about 4,000m Norwegian kroner (about £355m). Costs were estimated 18 months ago at a little over half that.

Mr Holte also said that this year would see a peak in the group's investment programme with spending amounting to about 3,000m kroner.

Although terms for the transfer of the group's interests in Mongstad and refinery product marketing in Norway have yet to be finalized, Mr Holte said Norsk Hydro would be selling 30 per cent of its 60 per cent stake in the refinery to the Norwegian Government for around 300m kroner.

In return for its marketing interests the company would receive shares in the new state marketing company.

Financial Editor, page 17

Common textiles tariff urged

By Our Financial Staff

The Stock Exchange, taking an interim view of the recommendations on inflation accounting in the Sandilands Report, says there are a number of points which it considers "less than ideal".

Specifically, The Stock Exchange is concerned about the major area of defining the interests of shareholders and shareholders in the case of selling profits attributable to shareholders and their participation in the equity of a company so that year-to-year comparisons can be drawn.

It wants to see a system of inflation accounting adopted urgently, but says that if a steering group is to be set up to push ahead with Sandilands' recommendations of a Current Cost Accounting system, then that group should contain representatives of both institutional and private investors.

In the interim period The Stock Exchange suggests companies employ any soundly-based system to demonstrate the effect of inflation on their accounts.

It was submitted to the Commission at the end of last month and represents a further attempt to bring the industry concerned to underline the serious effect on Community industry of high import penetration of their domestic markets.

The industries said that tariff preferences should be withdrawn on those developing countries which have established strong textile industries.

Hongkong and the state trading countries should continue to be excluded from the Community's tariff preference scheme for textiles.

The manifesto also called for full use of the multi-fibre arrangement of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade to support the Community textile industry.

Sandilands concern by the SE

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Ryder plea for the young

By David Young

Lord Ryder, the Government's industrial adviser and chairman designate of the National Enterprise Board, said yesterday that he believed Britain did not make the best use of her management talent.

Speaking to the American Chamber of Commerce (United Kingdom) he said that not enough authority was delegated down the line so that younger managers could develop and show their potential.

"We also need to take more chances in the future. For a nation of our size, we still have the lead in many areas of advanced technology. The pity of it is that we too often lack the resources, or the marketing flair to exploit our technological advantage fully."

In the difficult conditions of the last few years many of our managers have had to work very hard even to maintain an

adequate level of performance, let alone to improve it. British management is far from perfect, but let us give credit where credit is due."

Lord Ryder also said that the British worker was often unfairly criticized. "We hear a good deal about strikes and low productivity. We hear much less about low rates of absenteeism, low rates of labour turnover, and high levels of skills compared with workers in comparable industries abroad."

"We also need to take more chances in the future. For a nation of our size, we still have the lead in many areas of advanced technology. The pity of it is that we too often lack the resources, or the marketing flair to exploit our technological advantage fully."

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INTERIM RESULTS

The unaudited, consolidated results for the six months ended 31st July, 1975 are:

	1975	1974
External Turnover		
Wholesale	4,984,543	4,548,097
Retail	8,154,969	6,791,371
	<u>£13,139,512</u>	<u>£11,339,468</u>
Group Profit before Taxation	965,880	912,403
Corporation Tax at 52%	525,000	490,000
Net Profit after Taxation	<u>£440,880</u>	<u>£422,403</u>
Interim Ordinary dividend, pence	0.75	0.689
per Ordinary Stock unit		
Earnings, pence per Ordinary Stock unit	1.94	1.84

Interim Statement by the Chairman, Mr. D. Cannon.

* I am pleased to be able to report that, despite a fall in the rate of profit to sales in the six months to July, 1975, total profit before taxation has increased by more than £53,000 over the corresponding period last year, to stand at £965,880.

* Towards the end of the half year, there was some slowing down in sales. In the opening weeks of the current period our experience in our shops within stores units at home and abroad is of a continuation of that trend.

* Cash flow and available cash resources are strong. Our capital expenditure programme for development and the modernisation of plant and equipment is continuing and our productive resources were fully utilised throughout the half year.

* The lessening of demand makes it likely that profits for the second half of the current year will be lower than those for the second half of last year. Nevertheless, every endeavour is being made to improve our market share in conditions in which the reputation established in our brands should stand us in good stead.

* Your Board have declared an interim dividend of 0.75 pence per Ordinary Stock unit (0.689 pence last year) which will be paid on the 17th November, 1975 to stockholders registered on the 20th October, 1975.

Ekofisk oil to reach Britain next week

By Peter Hill

Two submarine pipelines stretching from the middle of the North Sea to the British coast are filling up oil.

The first line, from the Ekofisk field in the Norwegian sector, will begin to deliver oil to a £120m storage Teesside complex on Tuesday. The other, from the BP Forties field, will come into official operation on November 3.

Business appointments

Sir Charles Hardie is to retire as BPC chairman

Sir Charles Hardie, chairman of British Printing Corporation, is to retire from the board after the annual general meeting in May next year. Mr Peter Robinson, managing director, will then become executive chairman.

Mr Malcolm Lowe, deputy chief executive of IPC Business Press, has joined the board of IPC. Mr W. J. Chandler has resigned as a director of IPC because of his involvement in the planning of Reed International.

Mr Derek Rowe has become managing director of Longacre Colour Laboratories, part of IPC Business Press. He continues as director and general manager of Computaprint. At Longacre Mr Rowe succeeds Mr John Wells, who was managing director for 10 years and will continue as consultant. Mr Stuart Elms becomes sales director of Longacre.

Mr F. W. Crawley has been made a joint general manager of Lloyds Bank after its return from Lloyds Bank Corporation. He also has been seconded to Lloyds Bank International as an executive director.

Mr Leslie Forrester has been

Unilever speeds up transport

By Michael Baily

A new high-speed transport service for British exporters to Europe was announced yesterday by Unilever's rapidly expanding transport division.

Known as Unifast, it will offer delivery in centres like Birmingham, Manchester, Glasgow and Leeds to destinations in France, Germany and other countries at about a third of the time taken by typical existing services, according to Unilever spokesmen.

Cut of the cloth

From the Reverend Mark Kiddle

Sir, I am grateful to the Post Office for putting up the cost of their services.

Already the number of advertisements arriving daily through the post has dropped. I have just gone two whole days without a single telephone call (ten calls a day is normal).

By paying bills in person and making more use of bank credits I can effect a considerable postage saving. By cutting out all but a handful of Christmas cards this year will save me a further £15 on postage alone.

A few other simple economies should mean that my postal bill during the next 12 months should be at least 30 per cent cheaper than the past 12.

Yours, etc.
MARK KIDDLE,
St Bede's Vicarage,
Nelson,
Lancashire,
October 8.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Promoting a constructive side of industrial life

From Sir Jack Callard

Sir, The annual TUC and political party conferences now finishing naturally tend to concentrate on divisions and controversy in our society, and this is always highlighted in the news.

With their end, however, and with the really grave time ahead for this country, could we not all concentrate equally on the constructive side of industrial life?

For there is a constructive side at work today, and the more it is known the more likely people are both to be encouraged by it, and to make it a self-generating force in fact, as well as a morale booster.

There are a number of practical organizations in this country concerned with the improvement of industrial relations, and I have the honour to be President of the Industrial Participation Association, the oldest, largest and most experienced body in this field, which has been actively promoting employee participation and involvement for over 90 years.

There has never been such interest in, and demand for, side of industrial life as there is today. With the human factor now the major industrial problem of our time, the options are whether to have participation by consent or by coercion.

Yet not enough is known of

the constructive achievements to date. There are many firms where genuine participation is practised from the board room to the shop floor. Many more firms would follow if they knew where and how to start.

But companies must develop participation in ways that fit their own circumstances. There is no such thing as a participation package. It must grow organically within the company, with its roots in people at every level.

I think most people would be surprised—and immensely cheered—if they knew of the conferences and discussions that are now going on to this end. In the IPA, for example, we have this week one of our regular conferences, this time in Glasgow.

At this, managing directors and shop stewards present jointly their experience of developing practical participation and responsibility on the shop floor, a demonstration of how management and trade unions really can and do work in harmony together.

There is no easy prescription for industrial peace, but it can be created, it does exist, and the more people can get to know this the faster will the practical lessons be spread abroad to the benefit of all of us.

Yours faithfully,
JACK CALLARD, President,
Industrial Participation Association,
25/28 Buckingham Gate,
London, SW1
October 10.

Gas boards, and how to have your own monopoly on inflation

From Mr Paul M. Mather

Sir, Your October 10 issue contained a half-page advertisement for British Gas. I find it surprising that a monopoly such as this needs to advertise itself, but I am sure it is not unusual, perhaps thinking that one nationalized industry is "doing a grand job".

My October 10 post contained a letter from the East Midlands Gas Board, who may not have read the advert ("Good for the Customer" is British Gas—it can "save you money in the home").

EMGAS is going to charge more for gas from October 1, 1975. The increase is not unusual, but the increase between last January and today amounts to 66 per cent of the January price for a quarter's consumption of 400 therms.

Thus, on January 2, 1975, I paid just under £30 for 400 therms. Today I would pay £50 for the same amount, an increase of £20 on a bill of £30 over nine months.

To follow the practice of Mr Healey, I could convert that to an annual rate of 80 per cent, which exceeds the rate of price inflation by a factor of three.

Perhaps the part of the advertisement informing me that gas can save me money should be interpreted as meaning that I have saved 40 per cent of the price I would have had to pay had they put their prices up by 100 per cent.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL M. MATHER,
23 Seven Oaks Crescent,
Bramcote Hills,
Beeston,
Nottingham.

Educating correspondents in the art of percentage changes

From Mr David Stewart

Sir, Your correspondent, Mr Donald Hutchison (October 15, page 16) incorrectly describes the change in the cost of selling to Europe, from four old pence in 1970 to the equivalent of 24 old pence today, as an increase of 600 per cent; the increase, of course, is only 1/500 per cent (new cost minus old cost, divided by old cost, multiplied by 100).

How apposite that Mr Hugh Skyes Davies should refer, in his letter of the same day (page 13), to the disquiet expressed by the head of the Post Office appointments centre over the difficulty of being "unconcerned with... numerical skills."

Was the calculation of percentage increases one of the skills he had in mind?

Mr Hutchison is not the only one over the past few months to miscalculate percentage changes by dividing the new value by the old before multiplying by 100. My impression is that, unfortunately, the tendency to make this error is increasing. If we must agree, even on the most basic of definitions, what hope is there for meaningful communication in the future?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID STEWART,
ETV Centre,
Tennyson Street,
London, SW8.

Charities' Christmas catalogues

From Mr A. E. Hickinbotham

Sir, I have to date received from charities five catalogues of Christmas gifts. Each, in several colours, must have cost a substantial sum. Behind each must be organization, purchasing, despatching and postage.

Would it not save overheads,

and perhaps widen the appeal, if charities combined? Purchasers could say on order forms to which charity, or charities, their purchase should be credited.

Yours faithfully,
A. E. HICKINBOTHAM,
29 Walwood Road,
Swanage,
Dorset.

Sayers Prize Fund for graduates

From Professor J. S. G. Wilson

Sir, I would be grateful if you would permit me to use your columns for the purposes of making a special appeal.

In July, 1968, a number of friends, colleagues, and former colleagues presented R. S. Sayers with a Festschrift—*Essays in Banking*, published by Oxford. The book was a modest financial success and—as one of the editors and with the approval of my fellow contributors—I approached the Press to request that any profits deriving from our venture should be applied to setting up a Sayers Prize Fund in the University of London to commemorate the work of Professor R. S. Sayers, formerly Cassell Professor of Economics with special reference to money and bank-

ing in the University of London;

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Minister to tighten control of Crown Agents after loss provisions of £134m

Ronald Pallen, publication yesterday of the audited accounts of the Crown Agents, has revealed the detail of the agency's banking and provision market. Coinciding with the release of the accounts, Mr. Pallen, Minister for Overseas Development, announced in the Commons the government's plans for tighter controls over the future activities of the Crown Agents.

The accounts reveal that the agents, which furnish financial, professional and commercial services for overseas governments, have had to make provisions against possible future losses amounting to £134m. The most important of these are for bad and doubtful debts of £22m, for the loss of investments and £15m provisions in earlier years.

One yard confirms late talks

Mr. Hunter confirmed yesterday that it had been engaged in talks with the Government over the possible threat to employment in the shipbuilding industry. The statement, issued by Mr. Hunter, the group's managing director, followed disclosures in *The Times* earlier this week that the company had ordered orders placed nearly a year ago through an associated company, Swan Marine.

Mr. Hunter said the meetings with Swan Hunter Shipbuilders and the Department of Industry had been requested by the company because of its vulnerability stemming from the slump in demand for ships. The need for discussions in the department arose because of the construction of a particular ship, the owner, having been unable to secure employment for the vessel, has expressed his doubts about his ability to complete the construction, Mr. Hunter said.

He did not disclose the particular ship in question, or the name of the owner. However, he thought that the ship is of a package of orders ordered by Swan Marine in a huge spending spree. British shipbuilders involved some £150m.

Mr. Hunter has a 25 per cent interest in this associated company with the major stake held by the British African shipping company, Afrim, Fruit Carriers. The company represented a major breakthrough in shipbuilding and construction and was said to be "an exciting prospect".

In this statement Mr. Hunter said that the company had not received any cancellations of orders.

Lockbroking merger

Lockbroker Fiske is merging with Bragg, Stockdale, Hall, limited corporate member. Bragg partners, Mr. Alan and the Marquess of Ebury are moving over to the new company, which is headed by Mr. Clive Harris, who becomes senior partner. The new company, Fiske, is only two years old. Bragg was started 156 years ago.

ICB staff fund liability up £245m

Margaret Stone, liabilities of the National Board staff superannuation fund increased by £245m during the three years between April, 1972, and April, 1974. The increase stems from higher salaries, improvements in the pension scheme and a change in the basis of making further contributions for the effect of inflation.

The pension fund report listed yesterday the actual figures out that the actual liability — the shortfall between future liabilities and fund's ability to match them — is only £22m. The report also shows that the fund's assets, increases and payments of £22m deficiency is to be met by a special provision



Mr John Cuckney, Senior Crown Agent (left) and Mr Reg Prentice at a press conference yesterday.

But Mr. Prentice stressed that, as in the case of the EEC or the Bank of England, the confidential relationship between the Agents and their principals, on which so much of their business depends, would not be disturbed by this arrangement. At a press conference yesterday Mr. John Cuckney, Senior Crown Agent, emphasized that the rundown of the Agents' commitments had to be controlled. In the case of Sterling Industrial Securities, a company the Agents were closely identified with, this was being achieved, but Mr. Cuckney said that he took a particularly gloomy view of the Stern group and thought that £36m of the £40m lent to the group would not be recovered. "The invisible 'shopkeepers'," page 12

IMF gold pact facing Congress opposition

From Frank Vogel Washington, Oct 16

Congressmen may be urged by the Joint Economic Committee of Congress to oppose the sale of gold held by the International Monetary Fund along the lines agreed at the recent meeting of ministers at the IMF's annual conference. The opposition, led by Mr. Henry Reuss, chairman of the House of Representatives Banking Committee, is based primarily on the contention that the IMF agreement would increase, rather than decrease, the international reserve role of gold.

This opposition is adding yet another difficulty to officials at the IMF charged with devising methods of selling some of the IMF's gold holdings. United States Treasury officials have indicated that there will be no sale of IMF gold before international agreement has been reached, and it is hoped this can be finalized at the Committee of 20 meeting of the IMF in Jamaica in January.

Thus, the IMF officials still have some three months to work out a detailed gold strategy. Their chief problems are not those of legalities, as some commentators have suggested. Under the IMF's articles it is illegal for present for the IMF to sell gold at any price other than the official one of around

\$42 (about £21) an ounce, but this is merely a minor technicality.

IMF officials had explained to finance ministers early in September that the problem could easily be circumvented by the IMF selling its gold through intermediaries. There are now no legal restrictions, for example, on central banks selling gold.

Thus, for example, the IMF could sell gold at the official price to a central bank, which then could sell it at the free market price. The profit made by the central bank could easily be returned to the IMF under an agreement between the two parties.

There has never been any question of the IMF selling gold directly to the market, and its articles have been changed. The IMF is believed to have held discussions on the best ways of selling gold, with some leading central banks and with the Bank for International Settlements, which is likely to play a major role as a gold selling agent.

The IMF envisages returning about 25 million ounces of gold at the official price to member countries and getting the richer of these, the industrial countries which will account for about 21 million ounces, to transfer to the IMF the cash difference between the official and free market price.

Cheaper loaf by ABF sparks bread price war

By Hugh Clayton
First signs of a bread price war were yesterday as one of the largest manufacturers in the country said that it would cut the price of a large standard loaf by 1p on Monday.

Associated British Foods, which makes Sunblest bread, accompanied its announcement with a plea for the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection and for the policy of its largest competitor. The move marks a departure from marketing policy in the past three years in which leading bread companies have quietly changed prices together by the same amount.

Mr. Garry Weston, chairman of ABF, said last night that the cut in price was made because the company had exceeded its profit reference level under the Price Code. But it had nevertheless had to ask for permission from the Government to reduce the price.

Mr. Weston said that was "a statement of the fact that the industry is being forced to compete on price for the benefit of the public". He denied the cut had been prompted by the decision by BAF to sell its bread in plastic bags. "We can't react on price to someone else's gimmick."

His company had been "dumbfounded" to learn from the Department of Prices and Consumer Protection that the Government would not allow bread in plastic bags. "We can't react on price to someone else's gimmick."

"In our opinion this decision was commercially naive beyond belief," Mr. Weston said. "They have now, through complete lack of commercial understanding, forced on the industry a war over who can pack bread in the fanciest bag or wrapper."

He said later: "You quoted Ranks this morning as saying that it could be cheaper. Very much dispute that." Bag-making capacity in Britain was insufficient for all standard loaves and imports cost half as much again as the home-produced bag was claimed to.

LR Industries to cut prices gives pledge

LR Industries has given Mrs. Shirley Williams, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, an undertaking that it will reduce the home market price of its range of contraceptive sheaths.

The undertaking follows the settlement of a referral to the Monopolies Commission on the supply of contraceptive sheaths in the United Kingdom market. LR Industries has also agreed to alter its discount structure, but at the same time has criticized the referral to the Commission.

Mr. Mark Sellers, chief executive of LRC International, said last night that his company is of the opinion that the referral to the Commission was a waste of both public and company time and money. LR Industries spent in the region of £250,000 on legal and accounting fees and on executive time in connection with the referral.

Mr Rockefeller urges federal assistance to avert 'catastrophic' New York bonds default

From Peter Strafford New York, Oct 16

Vice-President Rockefeller has made a new and strongly worded call for federal assistance to New York City. In an interview in *the New York Times*, Mr. Rockefeller, a Democrat, said that the city's financial situation was "catastrophic" and that the American economy if New York defaulted on its bonds.

He also said that, in spite of his public opposition to federal aid for New York, President Ford would "carry out his responsibility" if Congress once adopted legislation setting it up. It was, however, up to Congress to act first. "If the Congress acts, there is nothing the President can do."

Asked whether Mr. Ford would not in fact veto any such legislation, Mr. Rockefeller replied: "Let's be a little realistic. There's a two-to-one Democratic Congress. New York has a Democratic mayor and a Democratic Governor. But why should a Republican government try to step in and tell the Congress and the city or the state how they should solve their problems? This is their responsibility. They have the power. They have a huge Democratic majority in the New York State Delegation. They are very intelligent people. When they've acted, then he (Mr. Ford) will carry out his responsibility."

Mr. Rockefeller's tone is a very different one from that of Mr. Ford, who has said more than once that he sees no need for federal assistance. But both Mr. Rockefeller and the White House have been trying to play down the differences, describing them as "minimal". Mr. Rockefeller had a meeting with Mr. Ford in Washington yesterday. In his interview with the *Los Angeles Times* he said that Congress "better do it, now. This is a very critical moment and it doesn't hurt to have standby legislation on the books. It doesn't cost a thing."

One way of acting, he suggested, would be to convert the city's notes from short term to long term, either through federal guarantees or federal purchase of the notes. New Yorkers were today counting the cost of the latest round of budget cuts announced last night by Mr. Abe Beame, the mayor. Altogether, it is estimated, the cuts may amount to some \$8,000 a month between now and the end of next June, coming on top of the more than \$21,000 there have already been since last January. At the same time the continuing seriousness of the city's position was underlined by a hectic search for funds which are needed by tomorrow if the city is not to default immediately on its obligations. City officials said that they needed an extra \$56m (about £27.3m) and had no certainty of finding it.

S African uranium deal with Iran

Johannesburg, Oct 16.—South Africa and Iran are reported to be preparing to conclude an agreement under which Pretoria will sell uranium oxide worth some \$700m (about £340m) to Iran in exchange for financial participation in South Africa's first uranium enrichment plant at Valindaba, near Pretoria.

The report, which originated in the United States, has not yet been officially confirmed in the South African capital. But economic experts here regard such an agreement as logical and in keeping with energy policies followed by both Iran and South Africa.

A little over a year ago, Iran signed an agreement with France acquiring five nuclear reactors and a total cost of \$3,000m. The signing followed shortly after a visit by Senator Owen Horwood, South Africa's economic affairs minister. Immediately after the Paris-Teheran agreement Senator Horwood went to France.

South African officials declined to comment on speculation that a tripartite agreement had been reached between the three countries. Two factors point to a Pretoria-Teheran link-up—first, the acquisition by Iran of an enrichment plant, and second, the fact that South Africa is the second largest uranium producer in the non-communist world. The first is Canada and the third the United States.

South Africa has more than one-fifth of the world's total uranium concentrates reserves—the Soviet Union and China excepted.

South Africa's uranium is generally a by-product of gold extraction from the Transvaal and Orange Free State provinces. To get nuclear energy plants working rapidly, something the Shah considers essential in order to preserve his oil reserves, Iran needs large quantities of combustible fissile material in the form of enriched uranium.

Dr. Piet Koornhof, South Africa's mines minister, recently stated that, between now and 1984, South Africa hopes to export part of 5,000 tons of enriched uranium produced yearly at Valindaba by a method regarded here as the most economical in the world.

Dr. Koornhof told Parliament that a full-scale uranium enrichment plant would earn South Africa at least \$290m in foreign exchange each year—Agence France Presse.

Inchcape revises its offer for Anglo-Thai

By John Whitmore

Inchcape, the international trading group, has launched a revised and underwritten offer that will give it control of the Anglo-Thai Corporation, the Far Eastern trading group which once formed part of the international business empire of Sir Denys Lawson.

The new offer, which values Anglo-Thai at £30m, has won the blessing of Estates House Investment Trust, the key shareholder in Anglo-Thai with 45 per cent of the ordinary share capital and control of the votes.

Mr. Brian Banks, managing director of Slater, Walker Investments, said last night that his group would also be accepting the new bid in respect of the 9 per cent of Anglo-Thai under its control. Inchcape itself already owns 6.6 per cent of Anglo-Thai's shares.

Yesterday's moves did not appear to be welcomed by the Anglo-Thai board, however. Mr. Roy Davies, Anglo-Thai's managing director, said that he was "amazed" that EBIT had accepted the new terms, particularly as EBIT had two years to resolve its inherited problem of investments, such as that in Anglo-Thai, which were proportionately too large for it.

to hold if it wished to maintain its status as a conventional investment trust.

A spokesman for EBIT, however, said that his group felt that the new offer was a good one, that the cash alternative obviously suited EBIT and that the Anglo-Thai board had been fully aware for some months of the group's need to rationalize its investments.

The terms of the revised offer are 23 Inchcape shares for every 50 Anglo-Thai shares. With the Inchcape share price closing 14p down at 31p last night, the new terms value Anglo-Thai shares at 146p—against 141p, down 6p yesterday, in the market.

Alternatively there is a cash alternative that values Anglo-Thai shares at 131p each. This results from agreement by institutional investors to underwrite the new Inchcape shares to be issued at a price of 28p. Shares in Estates House Investment Trust, in which Slater, Walker has recently built its interest up to 19 per cent, closed 9p easier at 256p following the news.

Inchcape has been advised by Baring Brothers, which August 1974, which promised a statement when the new offer documents are published, is being advised by Arthurnot Latham.

Steel output 19 pc down on last year's level

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Steel output in Britain continued to be depressed last month, and a marked improvement in demand is unlikely before the middle of next year. Figures, issued jointly last night by the British Steel Corporation and the British Independent Steel Producers' Association, showed that output last month was 19 per cent lower than in the same month last year. They amounted to an average weekly production of 361,300 tonnes.

For the first nine months of this year, weekly output of the United Kingdom steel industry has averaged 386,000 tonnes, about 10 per cent down on the corresponding period of last year when output was also affected by the aftermath of the three-day week. But compared with the first nine months of 1973 production was down by nearly 25 per cent.

The figures underline the gravity of the crisis afflicting steelmakers throughout the world. This week leaders of the international steel industry have been discussing what action might be taken to alleviate the crisis. French steelmakers have been urging European Commission officials in Brussels to activate specific clauses in the Treaty of Paris, which governs Community administration of the industry, to protect producers. So far the French have failed to secure the necessary unanimous support from the EEC partners, but Commission officials are working on measures which are to be announced shortly and may produce relief. Earlier this week it emerged that the United States would support discussion of the steel industry's predicament within the framework of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

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But these discussions are unlikely to produce immediate relief for the British steel industry. Consumers and merchants, who are holding unusually high levels of stocks, are continuing to cut back on stock levels but only slowly.

Insurance rescue offer cut by 10 pc

The financial position of London Indemnity and General Insurance—the offshoot of Jessel Securities—which had to be bailed out by a consortium of life offices last October, now appears to be worse than had been originally estimated. A detailed investigation has shown a substantial shortfall in the assets, now estimated to be worth between £60m and £70m, which stems from the loss of the downturn in property values between spring and autumn last year.

Its equity valuation is also lower than had been originally thought, and in addition the position regarding the £6m of uncalculated capital which should have been made available from Jessel Securities is uncertain. The result is that the rescue consortium has had to reduce the terms of the conditional offer it made to the £5,000 LIGI policyholders last October. The new offer, which is unconditional, scales down all benefits by 10 per cent to 90 per cent compared with the payments in full which had been envisaged.

However, there is no change in position of income bond holders whose original guaranteed surrender values were cancelled and replaced by surrender values based on actuarial assumptions. Policyholders now have the choice of accepting the consortium's offer or seeing LIGI go into liquidation.

STC denies plan to dismiss 1,200
Standard Telephones and Cables (Northern Ireland) has denied reports that the company is to dismiss 1,200 people from its three factories in Northern Ireland. Mr. Billy Orr, general manager, said yesterday that employee turnover had been running at about 1,000 a year for three years, so most of the needed reduction of 900 would be achieved by stopping recruitment. "Over the past three years STC's employee turnover in Northern Ireland has been running at about 1,000 people each year," Mr. Orr said. Theoretically this means the company could achieve its required manning levels by stopping recruitment, but inevitably some of those who left would be in jobs which needed to be continued. The company would try to fill these posts by redeployment and retraining of those affected by the cutback.

Britain is granted one month to settle summit claim

From Roger Vielvoys Paris, Oct 16

Britain has less than 30 days to sort out its claim for separate representation at a world conference on international economic cooperation. According to a final communiqué issued by a preparatory meeting here in the early hours of the morning, a one-month time limit has been set for notifying the French government of the 27 countries which will take part.

The communiqué also confirms that the responsibility for choosing the eight industrial representatives at the conference rests with the Americans, the Japanese and the European Economic Community.

munity, who acted as spokesmen for the developed countries this week.

An American spokesman said today that the EEC had in reality less than 30 days to tackle the problem posed by Britain's claim. Progress on choosing the rest of the industrial team could not be made until the status of the EEC and Britain at the conference was settled.

Because at least 10 countries apart from Britain are keen to fill the five additional seats allocated to the industrial countries, the selecting group would need at least 10 to 15 days to make the relevant diplomatic contacts once the EEC/Britain dilemma was solved.

After the ministers from the 27 countries have completed a two or three day session, starting on December 16, to consider the recommendations made by the preparatory meeting, the conference will break up into four commissions which will study energy, raw materials, development and finance.

Each commission will have five representatives from the industrialized countries and four from the developing world. If Britain's claim for a separate seat is successful, the United Kingdom would want a seat on at least three of the commissions.

The final communiqué says the commission on energy will "facilitate all arrangements which may seem advisable in the field of energy". The Americans, however,

want the commission to consider oil prices and their relationship to long-term supply and demand for energy and to world economic progress. This conflicts directly with the commission's task of producing countries for discussions on indexing prices to protect their earning power.

The communiqué wording is similarly vague in the case of raw materials. Again the seven proposed industrial countries consider indexing commodity prices.

The nearest the American document comes to meeting this demand is a suggestion that the commission should study the problem of stabilizing export earnings from raw materials. All four commissions will be interdependent, and the United States sees the finance forum

dealing largely with the financial aspects raised by the other three commissions. The communiqué adds that the finance commission will also "respect the jurisdiction of international institutions such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank."

The seven want the finance group to take a more fundamental look at the world monetary system, including "relevant aspects of international monetary problems: financial cooperation and investment; financial flows and investments; in industrialized countries; the problems of long-term investments; the protection of the real value of financial assets; and problems of the international financial markets."

How the markets moved

Rises	Falls
Bejam 7p to 16p	Anglo-Thai 5p to 14p
Delem 10p to 22p	Brit & Common 3p to 18p
EMI 10p to 22p	Eng China 1p to 6p
Lucas 12p to 23p	Glaxo 6p to 3p
Lucas Inds 6p to 24p	GSP 14p to 8p
Pittsburgh 3p to 26p	Highland Dist 21p to 17p
	Inchcape 16p to 38p
	Gold M Kal 5p to 77p
	Jardine Matheson 4p to 38p
	NBM Shigs 10p to 18p
	Poseidon 10p to 18p
	Slater Walker 1p to 48p
	Stylo 7p to 16p
	Wheelock Mard 1p to 54p

Equities rose strongly. Gold was up \$1 an ounce at \$143.50. SDR-5 was 1.17900 on Thursday while SDR-2 was 0.57482. Commodities: Reuters' index was at 1138.0 (previous 1137.5). Reports pages 18 and 19

The FT index: 348.4 + 6.0

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A record half-year

- * The results reflect another record in terms of sales tonnages, values and profits.
- * Offshore and general export business exceeds 60% of total sales from the United Kingdom.
- * Proceeds of the recent 7 for 20 "Rights" issue, together with the Cash Flow from current high profit levels, have together significantly improved our liquidity.
- * The Board intends to recommend Dividends for 1975 of 4p. per Share on the increased Share Capital now in issue.
- * Prospects for the second half of 1975 are good. Prospects for 1976 are at present difficult to evaluate but unless there is further serious deterioration in economic conditions at home and abroad, we face the coming year with considerable confidence.

RESULTS IN BRIEF	Half Year to	June	Year
(Unaudited)	1975	1974	1974
Turnover	£6,256,313	£4,184,306	£8,502,900
Profit before Tax	£1,238,900	£ 711,250	£1,397,161
Profit after Tax	£ 598,100	£ 334,000	£ 680,955
Earnings per Share	11.60p	6.81p	13.78p

Copies of the full Interim Report are available from the Secretary, Speedwell Works, Coalbridge, Lancashire ML5 4RS, Scotland.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Inchcape plays an ace



Sir Charles Clow, chairman of Inchcape, remains strong.

many companies are very close to the point where they no longer feel able to justify the cost to shareholders.

Sears Respectable so far

Winter and Christmas provide the greater part of the year's opportunities for Sears' shoe and shopping businesses, so that the first-time figures give no more than a tentative guide to the final outcome. So far, this year's performance has been respectable, with some recovery in footwear and some trading profits emerge over 40 per cent higher. Betting figures have bounced back from an abnormally low level and profits on motor vehicle sales and servicing have doubled, thanks to buoyant used car sales.

However, engineering figures, although back into the black after a very difficult six months at the end of last year, still compare badly with those of the corresponding period.

Pre-tax profits emerge 18.4 per cent up only by virtue of the £2.29m (as against £1.08m) surplus on redemption of loan capital which has been offset against interest debits. Without this, the post-tax gain is less than 12 per cent.

Liquidity is still strong and the group is taking steps to keep it that way by trimming the capital spending programme. A maximum increase in the dividend looks probable, in which case the share at 42p is yielding a prospective 7.7 per cent—which is, even in the context of a profit recovery to perhaps, £45m, against £41m, for the year—not enough to get excited about.

Interim: 1975-76 (1974-75)
Capitalization £185m
Sales £321m (£274m)
Pre-tax profits £19.2m (£16.2m)

Norsk Hydro

Financing the North Sea

Norsk Hydro is going to be a very different animal by 1977-78, with North Sea oil overhauling chemical fertilizers as the main contributors to earnings, which NH estimates should more than double by then. An already fairly stretched balance sheet, though, is going to come under further strain before the North Sea is financed.

Since the accounts to June 30 a 15-year Swiss bond loan of francs 80m has been floated and a Dutch long-term loan of fl.125m placed privately. Moreover, a Chase Manhattan Bank-headed consortium has extended a \$200m eight-year credit line, and further bond issues are expected next spring.

Further equity funding operation, then, could well form part of the total financing package. However, the market digested the Kr 520m (£44m) rights issue earlier this year, and the Norwegian Government is virtually guaranteed to take up its full rights on its 51 per cent stake in NH.

North Sea oil will enhance Norsk Hydro's utility status, and with a prospect of the fertilizer and aluminium cycles turning up coincidentally with the full impact of Ekofisk and Frigg earnings the chances are that the historic p/e ratio of 14 on the Oslo price of Kr 310 is not fully discounting the prospects.

Accounts: 1974-75 (1973-74)
Capitalization 3,512m
Net assets 1,490m (£1,475m)
Borrowings 1,885m (£1,299m)
Pre-tax profit 229m (£227m)
Average per share 21.9 (£22.6)
*(All figures in Norwegian crowns).

Pension funds

Raiding profits

Underlying the actuary's conclusion that the National Coal Board's pension fund was running a £22.1m deficit at April 5, 1974, are some understandable more cautious assumptions than were adopted the previous year. But while a point has been shaved off the margin by which the fund will outstrip the increase in salaries, that margin still stands at 2 per cent, while it is continuing to be assumed that the return on the fund will beat inflation by 4 per cent. All of this in the context of an investment yield last year of 7.98 per cent.

These figures only serve to demonstrate again the formidable topping up costs which must be faced by any company determined to keep a pension scheme fully funded in the face of price and wage inflation begin to conform more closely with the actuarial assumptions.

Admittedly, in many recent cases the scale of the calls made upon profit and loss accounts to provide against pension losses from bad debts and losses in the value of investments could mount even higher, led, in his statement in accounts, the Comptroller Auditor General adds that "years could be too soon in their judgment about losses, particularly in the case of contingent liabilities of over their excursion into alien property development."

Agents are then plainly to need a further transfer of government funds in on to last December's particularly as incorporation itself will necessitate the creation of a capital base, while the £15m deficit over liabilities is likely

At the very least, a growing number seem likely to emulate the Commercial Union's decision not to allow all of its investments to be classified as pensionable. Clearly,

Cutting costs with a do-it-yourself communications system



ITT crossbar equipment is tested in one of the three main switching centres in the Unilever telecommunications network, which was inaugurated this week.

Private telephone lines between dispersed locations have long been the economic solution to many companies' communications needs. Ad hoc private lines are one thing; an integrated private network reaching about 30,000 telephone extensions is something else.

Such a network came into use this week. The company is the Unilever group; the technology is conventional; the implications are significant.

The sheer scale of the system—it is believed to be one of the largest, if not the largest, private network in the world—is not, however, the most significant aspect.

Clearly a large private network can save a large amount of money. And such has been the rate of climb of public-network telephone charges over the past few years that Unilever's system is doubtless saving more than was expected when work on the system began four years ago.

But the new system has lessons for companies of all sizes. It represents the use of existing technology to provide a service specified by the user, in a system which can not only improve communications but also give savings both in telephone and in postal charges.

The Unilever Telecommunications network, or UTN, links 177 separate factories, offices, computer centres and distribution depots, covering a range of diverse operations: from Barchelor and Birds Eye Foods to Van den Berghs and Vinyl Products.

At the heart of the network are three main switching centres, supplied by ITT Busi-ness Systems and located in London, Leeds and Port Sunlight, Wirral. The network links are rented from the Post Office.

Each of the 177 locations is connected to one of these three centres, either directly or via a series of intermediate centres. In addition, there is a private-line link between London and Rotterdam.

For basic telephone communication the network enables people in Unilever locations

throughout England, Scotland and Wales to dial calls to one another without going through the public subscriber trunk calling (STC) system. The main advantages are abbreviated dialling for long-distance calls, fast connections and cheaper high-quality communications.

Telephone conversation accounts for the bulk of the network traffic at present but, as Mr David Orr, Unilever chairman, points out, the company now has in effect a highway for all forms of electronic communication.

Already, written and graphical information is conveyed across the network using facsimile transmission. Several dozen facsimile terminals are installed at key points within the Unilever organization at present and interest in facsimile is growing.

The novel "Telenote" equipment is also used. This enables a person at one end of a telephone line to sketch or write notes on a special pad connected to his telephone, and the sketches or notes are simultaneously reproduced at the other end of the line.

These devices enable some part of the organization's written communication to go

via the telecommunications "highway" rather than by post. But a potentially much bigger impact will be made as Unilever's computer-based typing system is linked into the network.

This system is a notable advance in its own right. Instead of buying commercially available word-processing systems (main suppliers include IBM, Kalle-Intotech and Nerox), Unilever wrote its own specifications and engaged Logica, the London systems consultancy, to design a system to implement them.

The available systems all gave the familiar advantages of fast, automatic typing and ease of correcting and modifying the copy. Typically, they stored the information on magnetic cards or tapes, but they did not present the information to the typist as effectively as Unilever believed was possible.

Logica came up with a system based on the use of key-board display units. Copy typed in at a terminal is stored on a magnetic disc and can be displayed on the screen to be corrected, changed or manipulated as required.

Standard letters or documents can be called up instantly and tailored to individual situations

typing system and the network gives much greater flexibility. Transmission of data between the group's computer centres and remote terminals is also handled on the new network. Unilever's future plans include the fuller integration of data links within the network and the introduction of a similar network in The Netherlands.

Mr Tom Baker, Unilever telecommunications manager, reports enormous interest already in the video typing system. There was nothing available on the market to do the job, he says, and so the company went ahead to draw up its own specifications and engaged Logica to design the system.

Business opportunities opened up by the new system are enormous, Mr Baker believes, and are not limited to applications similar to those of Unilever. Although size has an effect, the principles of the system are as applicable to small companies as to industrial giants.

Logica's design for the video typing system is essentially an adaptation of a Raytheon mini-computer/terminal combination used originally for airline reservations. Similar systems to that of Unilever are to be marketed generally by Logica in a range of sizes, starting with three-unit versions.

Beyond the speech, data and written-word communications now being implemented at Unilever, the company is looking at the prospects for adding vision services to the network.

Between London and Rotterdam, in particular, the economies of a "confratration" type service (by which groups at each end would see and hear each other via television screens) are being examined. The cost of travel by company people on this route is being assessed; if 20 to 30 per cent of this cost could be saved, the vision service would probably be justified.

Kenneth Owen
Technology Correspondent

Alan Hutchison

Southern Africa's new railway age

The choice of a railway carriage as a meeting place for discussions on the political future of southern Africa was a peculiarly appropriate one. For the main protagonists—Rhodesia and South Africa on the one hand, Rhodesian nationalists, Zambia and virtually the whole of black Africa on the other—has stimulated railway building in the area on a scale scarcely seen since the line that Cecil Rhodes wished to terminate in Cairo left Cape Town in 1859.

Rhodes believed that railways would spread out through Africa carrying white civilization to its furthest corners. But ironically the spur lines which he correctly predicted would spring from the trunk line to either coast, are being built by black governments with the object of isolating white rule, and of economically strangling it.

Since UDI 10 years ago Zambia has put a great deal of effort and money into lessening its dependence on traditional routes through Rhodesia and South Africa. This policy was both vindicated and accelerated by Mr Ian Smith's closure of the Rhodesian-Zambian border in January 1973.

The political price Zambia had to pay for this policy was accommodation with the Portuguese, for most of the traffic diverted from the southern route was "routed" along the Benguela line through Angola. Last year's coup in Portugal was both vindicated and accelerated by the right of the colonies to independence, has eased any political embarrassment Zambia may have felt; but ironically fighting between the Portuguese and the Angolan nationalists movements has temporarily put the Benguela line out of action.

The main "casualty" of shift-

ing political circumstances in southern Africa seems likely to be the Chinese-built Tanzam railway, due to be officially inaugurated on October 24. Zambia's eleventh anniversary of independence. Sceptics always doubted the economic practicability of the line, which links the Zambian copperbelt to the Tanzanian port of Dar es Salaam, 1,500 miles away.

After the World Bank had refused to finance this project China stepped in with a generous offer to build the line. The terms—a £168m interest-free loan repayable over 30 years from 1981—clearly show that for China it was a "political" railway; her offer showed up the West's unwillingness to help Zambia in a time of need; it demonstrated that China was able to undertake technically demanding overseas projects; and it was a political statement in a politically sensitive area.

It has also, incidentally, advanced Rhodes' dream by another 1,000 miles: politics willing, it is now possible to travel by rail all but 500 miles—the distance between Kampala and the southern Sudanese railway terminal of Wau—of the Cape to Cairo journey.

Now the political rationale for the "Usutu (Freedom) Line," as it is called locally, has faded, its economic prospects are brought into sharper focus. The railway's capacity to carry Zambia's copper exports and most of its imports is not in doubt; what is very much in doubt is the ability of the port of Dar es Salaam to handle them.

It was fear of this situation which prompted the Zambians to ask whether the railway could terminate either at the southern Tanzanian port of Mtwara or at a new Zambian port nearby. But, apparently, the southern Tanzanian terrain was too swampy, and the Tanzanians also resented the implication that they could not handle the vastly increased tonnage.

New berths are being built with World Bank help at Dar es Salaam and well-wishers hope this will cure congestion. Port congestion is a problem, too, on the other side of the continent, at Lobito, terminus and headquarters of the Benguela line.

Before the Rhodesian-Zambian border was closed Benguela was handling slightly less than 15,000 tons of Zambian copper per month; immediately afterwards this shot up to an average of 43,000 tons. The reaction of Benguela to Zambia is that the copper finishes up on the Atlantic coast, nearer to the main markets, and tariff charges come down greatly the more freight is sent.

Realizing these advantages, the Angolan authorities have recently announced ambitious plans nearly to treble the capacity of Lobito within the next two years from 2.7 million tonnes to 8 million tonnes. Also, a new coastal highway will link Lobito to Angola's two other ports, Luanda and Mocimede, and there are also plans for a new rail link between the Benguela line and the Mocimede railway.

Zambia, until recently the landlocked poor relation in central Africa, is considering two further rail links. The first is through Solwezi in the North-west, where there are known

copper deposits, and on to Lusaka on the Benguela line, thus bypassing Zaire altogether. (Zaire, the new name for the Congo, is the result of the Benguela line's passing through its territory, is not happy about this.)

The second proposal, announced earlier this year, is to link Malawi's railway system to the Tanzanian line. This would give Zambia yet another port, and a close one at that, at Nacala in northern Mozambique. A ready-made Zambia's copper has been taken by truck to Salima, the Malawian railhead, and then by rail to Nacala.

The political turn of events which has brought such good fortune to Zambia has virtually rung the death knell for a white-ruled Rhodesia, although its leaders are slow to realize the fact. All its neighbours bar one—and some might even include South Africa now—are politically hostile.

The two ports on which it relies most, Beira and Lourenço Marques, are in the hands of the Frelimo government, and, although communications have not yet been disrupted, Mozambique, bolstered by Britain's promise of £13m in return for enforcing sanctions, can only be waiting for the right time to deny Rhodesia access to the sea.

That event would leave Rhodesia with two vulnerable-looking links with the outside world. The first is Rhodesia's line, from Salisbury to Cape Town, some 400 miles of which runs through Botswana. That country, too, has been washed by the great political events of the last few years and, within the limits imposed by its geography, has more and more been asserting its independence of South Africa and giving its support to the policies of its black neighbours. One result of this has been the construction of the Botswana-Zambia road, financed by USAID and due to be completed next year.

Another has been the threat to nationalize the Botswana section of Rhodesian Railways. Aware that this screw could be turned at any moment Rhodesia last year, hastily constructed another link to South Africa, from Rutenga to Beit Bridge in Northern Transvaal.

The Catch 22 is that South Africa does not want to handle Rhodesian traffic. Its own ports are already overstretched and, furthermore, it is unlikely to want to jeopardize its fragile relations with the new Mozambique government by mixing illegal Rhodesian cargo with its own imports and exports through Lourenço Marques.

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Retained profit	319,244	226,491
Pence per share		
Net assets	17.54	15.23
Earnings after tax	4.14	3.63
Net dividends	1.75	1.02

The A.G.M. will be held at the Chamber of Commerce, Birmingham at 12.30 pm on Monday, 10th November 1975.

Copies of the Report and Accounts may be obtained from the Secretary, at the Registered Office, Camp Hill, Birmingham B12 0JJ.

DOWDING & MILLS

Business Diary: A Foot in the door • French leave

appointment of another barrister Cyril Lewis, to full-time chairman of trial tribunals in England Wales causes one to ask the Department of Employment is getting more women on tribunals?

As this time last year that tel Foot, the Secretary of for Employment, let it be that he was not happy only one in eight of the upon whom the tribunal is female.

He take the full-time chair of whom there are 43, not a woman. This is absurd, given that full-time chair are usually lawyers.

re are, for example, nearly practising solicitors, of about 1,300 are women, in England and Wales are 3,646 practising ters, of whom 258 are n.

There is no woman full-chairman, presumably is not some in-built mination on the part of and Chancellor's office, does this habit of steering women practitioners away industrial specialities in early days.

in the new year onwards, er, the industrial tribu will have to assume new abilities with regard to n with the coming into n December 28 of the Pay and the Sex Discrimi- Acts.

is, the tribunals will have once to award arrears of

pay backdated for up to two years (although only as far back as December 28), where a woman can show that she has been unfairly treated.

If, however, there is no evidence of any progress in finding women to fill the full-time chairmanships, there is something to report about the members of the tribunals. There are usually two members of the list on each tribunal, often an employers' representative from a CBI affiliate and a trade union member from a TUC affiliate.

The Department of Employment has recently been rejigging its list of members after the TUC's decision once again to recognize the panel after the walk-out over the Industrial Relations Act.

Between them the CBI and the TUC have managed to nominate one woman to every four men—once as good as last year. In fact, the CBI has put forward slightly more women than the TUC.

Incidentally, the Lord Chancellor's office has a ready-made riposte should women's libbers complain that all the full-time chairmen are men. Nothing in the equal pay or the sex discrimination Acts stops a man going before a tribunal to seek equal treatment with women.

On tourism

Sir Alexander Glen, chairman of the British Tourist Authority, came face to face in London yesterday with a phenomenon that has stalked the British



French tourist minister Gerard Ducray at yesterday's reception.

tourist industry for five years or more—a Minister of Tourism.

Sir Alexander was a principal guest at a reception thrown by the French Chamber of Commerce in Great Britain for Gerard Ducray, the French Secretary of State for tourism.

Ducray, Republican, is only 33, and has been France's first Minister of Tourism for the past year. There has been interminable lobbying by the British tourist industry for such a minister in this country since 1963, when the then Labour Government produced its Development of Tourism Act.

Among other things, and there was, principally, the availability of government money for tourist development. The Act produced Sir Alexander's BTA. In theory our nearest equivalent to Ducray here is

Peter Shore, the Trade Secretary, who, unlike the Frenchman, is in his country's Cabinet.

In practice, however, tourism is handled by Shore's under-secretary, Eric Deakin, and the industry comes way down on his list of priorities.

While this Government appears to be slowly drawing up some form of guidelines for the industry, are the national and local public boards which influence it; there have been long delays in the past over the simplest decisions—such as whether or not to have an effective national system of registering hotels.

Surprisingly, Ducray, in his way, and the English Tourist Board in their paper to be working along similar lines. Ducray is particularly interested in what he calls "social tourism," or trying to make it easier for poorer people to take holidays something the ETB has been exploring with the TUC. The French are encouraging means of cheap holiday villages and considering whether to introduce a system of holiday vouchers.

The French have a balance of trade in their favour of 299m francs (excluding money spent on fares) with this country and Ducray thinks it is probably growing. There appeared to be a comparative twinkle in Sir Alexander's eye when Ducray said this, for the last figures available are those for 1973, we'll have to take the Frenchman's word for it.

There were cheers, laughter and backslapping in the audience of tourist trade people when Business Diary's Rose Davies asked Sir Alexander whether, in the light of Ducray's remarks, we, too, needed a Minister of Tourism.

"We have a Minister of Tourism—Peter Shore," Sir Alexander smiled, and set down.

Outpost

The Government Actuary, that shadowy figure who established the NCB's £22m pension fund deficiency, is Edward Johnson (hobbies: music and sailing), who succeeded Sir Herbert Teagley two and a half years ago.

Johnson's department is one of the more mysterious outposts of the Civil Service because, so little is heard of it directly. It has a staff of more than 60 and operates from near the CBI offices in Tothill Street.

Most of the work of the department, which publishes no annual report, is advisory. Johnson and his staff provide a consultancy service to government departments, to Commonwealth governments and, as we are now seeing with the NCB, to nationalized industries.

The areas covered are social security, superannuation, the preparation of population projections and particular projects such as the present survey of occupational pension schemes for the Department of Health and Social Security.

The actuary's office also ad-

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began, Oct 6. Dealings End Oct 17. § Contango Day, Oct 20. Settlement Day, Oct 28
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

Owing to unofficial industrial action, we have been unable to record yesterday's price changes.

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(continued on page 24)

